



**FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE**

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-147
Monday
1 August 1994

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-147

CONTENTS

1 August 1994

NOTICE TO READERS: An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Radio Reports Security Council Resolution on Haiti [Havana Radio]	1
UN Envoy Objects to Use of Force in Haiti [PRENSA LATINA]	1
Invasion Termed 'Threat' to Havana [PRENSA LATINA]	2
Radio Cites Haitian Provisional President Address [Havana Radio]	2
UN Commissioner on Haitian Refugees, Repatriation [PRENSA LATINA]	3
Havana Preparing 'Contingency Plan' for Haitian Refugees [Hamburg DPA]	3
Fidel Castro Meets Ecuador's Paredes [Havana Radio]	4
Paredes on Economic Trade [Havana Radio]	4
Paredes Concludes Visit [Havana Radio]	4
Raul Castro Meets Visiting Vietnamese General [Havana Radio]	5
Raul Castro Meets Colombian Defense Minister [PRENSA LATINA]	5
Canadian Official Praises AEC, Cuban Membership [PRENSA LATINA]	5
Activities With Cubans Abroad To Begin in Sep [Havana Radio]	6
Colombian Airlines Authorized for Flights to Cuba [Havana Radio]	6
Martinez Corona Elected President of Havana City's ANPP [Havana Radio]	6
Raul Castro Chairs Western PCC Analysis Meeting [Havana Radio]	6
Fidel, Raul Castro Meet With Western Province Leaders [PRENSA LATINA]	7
Council Vice President on Continuing Socialist Plan [PRENSA LATINA]	7

Dominican Republic

Parties React to U.S. Proposal on Elections [Hamburg DPA]	7
Reporters Arrested, Freed on Haitian Border [Madrid EFE]	8

Haiti

Jonassaint Decrees State of Siege, Prepares for Battle [Madrid EFE]	8
TV Carries Jonassaint Address [Port-au-Prince TV]	8
De Facto Government Calls Cabinet Meeting on UN Vote [NOTIMEX]	9
Anti-Intervention Statement Signed at Rally [Port-au-Prince Radio]	9
Former Aristide Organizer, Rally 'Indecent' [Port-au-Prince Radio]	10
Union Calls Electoral Process 'Demagoguery' [Port-au-Prince Radio]	10
Former Prime Minister Opposes Elections [Port-au-Prince Radio]	10
PANPRA, MIDH Intend To Forge Elections [Port-au-Prince Radio]	10
Deputy 'Pessimistic' About Altering Constitution [Port-au-Prince Radio]	10
Air France Suspends Flights [Hamburg DPA]	11

MEXICO

UN Envoy Rejects Decision on Haiti, Says Force Not Justified [NOTIMEX]	12
Foreign Secretariat 'Deplores' UN Resolution [Hamburg DPA]	12
Foreign Secretariat Signs Accords With Italy, Greece [NOTIMEX]	12
Agenda for EZLN's National Democratic Convention Detailed [EL FINANCIERO 25 Jul]	13
San Angel Group Not To Send Delegation to EZLN Convention [Mexico City Radio]	13
CEOIC Communique on EZLN Convention [LA JORNADA 29 Jul]	14
Chiapas Peace Commissioner: EZLN on 'Red Alert' [UNOMASUNO 28 Jul]	15
New Guerrilla Group Forming in Guerrero [LA JORNADA 25 Jul]	15
EZLN, Government Agree To Hold 21 Aug Elections in Chiapas [NOTIMEX]	17

Commerce Secretary on Increase in Exports to U.S. Market	[LA JORNADA 28 Jul]	18
'Harsher Penalties' for Smuggling Planned	[Mexico City TV]	18
Zedillo Presents Rural Development Program	[LA JORNADA 29 Jul]	19
Finance Secretary Reviews Economic Strategy	[Mexico City TV]	20
Electoral Institute Validates Electoral Registry	[NOTIMEX]	21

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Commission Report: Death Squads Decentralized	[San Salvador TV]	22
Calderon Views Report	[San Salvador TV]	22
Defense Minister: Report 'Contradictory'	[EL DIARIO DE HOY 30 Jul]	23
Defense Ministry Probes FMLN Links to EZLN	[EL DIARIO DE HOY 26 Jul]	24

Guatemala

Defense Minister Reaffirms Suspension of Draft	[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 28 Jul]	25
--	--------------------------	----

Honduras

Haitian Refugees To Be Housed on Swan Islands	[ACAN]	25
---	--------	----

Nicaragua

Sandinist Deputy Decries Detainment in Miami	[BARRICADA 29 Jul]	25
Leal Denies Asking U.S. To Detain Deputy	[BARRICADA 29 Jul]	27
Human Rights Group on 'Persecution'	[BARRICADA 30 Jul]	27
Minister on Effects of Drought; Aid Sought	[Managua Radio]	28

Panama

Minister-Designate: Arrival of Haitians 'Closed Case'	[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 31 Jul]	28
Three Arrested for Possible Ties to Blast	[ACAN]	28
Investigations Chief on Arrest	[Panama City TV]	29
'Forged Passports' of Suspects Published	[EL SIGLO 30 Jul]	29
Further on Suspects; Hebrew Center Fired On	[EL PANAMA AMERICA 30 Jul]	29
Further on Gunfire	[Panama City TV]	30
Envoy-Designate: U.S. Should Compensate for Invasion	[Panama City TV]	30

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem To Request Permission To Send Troops to Haiti	[Madrid EFE]	32
'Several' Israeli Security Officers Said Killed in AMIA Bombing	[Tehran Radio]	32
AMIA Bomb Explosives 'Manufactured Locally'	[LA NACION 28 Jul]	32
Hizballah Member Allegedly Behind AMIA Bombing	[LA NACION 28 Jul]	33
Iran's Embassy Denies Envoy's Alleged 'Terrorist' Record	[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	33
Vehicle Repair Shop Owner Arrested in AMIA Case	[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	34
Government Drafts Bill To Repress 'Terrorist' Crimes	[Buenos Aires Radio]	34

Brazil

Ω SPACE, NUCLEAR, S&T NOTES	[GAZETA MERCANTIL 16 Jun, etc.]	35
-----------------------------	---------------------------------	----

Chile

Iranian Embassy Issues Communique Denying All Accusations	[Santiago TV]	36
---	---------------	----

Colombia

Ministers-Designate Laud Helms Amendment Rejection [Santa Fe de Bogota TV]	36
Ambassador Views 'Crumbling' of Amendment [Santa Fe de Bogota TV]	37
Sanin Urges Haitian Government To Resign [NOTIMEX]	37
Kidnapping Attempt Against Transportation Minister Fails [Santa Fe de Bogota TV]	37
Government Reveals Second Phase of FARC Offensive [EL TIEMPO 26 Jul]	37
Government Creates New Urban Anti-Guerrilla Unit [Santa Fe de Bogota TV]	38
Armed Group Emerges in Medellin, Vows To Fight Guerrillas [Santa Fe de Bogota TV]	38

Venezuela

Caldera, Cabinet Decide To Delay Referendum [EL GLOBO 29 Jul]	39
Cabinet Official Comments [Caracas Radio]	39
Finance Minister Discusses Economic Measures [Caracas TV]	40
Diplomatic Missions Unable To Exchange Currency [Madrid EFE]	43
Minister Denies Clashes With Colombian Guerrillas [Caracas Radio]	43
Tanker Rescues Cubans Attempting To Reach Miami [EL UNIVERSAL 28 Jul]	44
Justice Minister Comments on Editorial [Caracas Radio]	44

Suriname

Parties Reject Role in UN Force for Haiti [Castries TV]	44
---	----

Cuba

Radio Reports Security Council Resolution on Haiti

FL3107202994 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1931 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] The UN Security Council today approved a resolution authorizing the creation of an international force for eventual intervention in Haiti. The vote was 12 in favor—the United States, France, Argentina, Great Britain, Spain, New Zealand, Djibouti, Russia, Czech Republic, Oman, Nigeria, and Pakistan—and two abstentions—the PRC and Brazil. When participating as guests—as per their own request—in the UN Security Council's formal session, the representatives of Mexico, Cuba, Uruguay, and Venezuela expressed their opposition to the project. Cuban Ambassador Bruno Rodriguez emphasized that this type of decision exceeds the UN Security Council's mandate, which is only authorized to do this in case of a threat to international security.

UN Envoy Objects to Use of Force in Haiti

PA3107194794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1840 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] United Nations, 31 Jul (PL)—Cuba opposes the UN Security Council's approval of a military operation against Haiti because, in its opinion, the decision goes beyond the mandate of that body as specified in Chapter 7 of its Charter.

Bruno Rodriguez, charge d'affaires of the Cuban mission to the United Nations, added that his country's disagreement with the measure is based on its Latin American inclination and its commitment to the principle of nonintervention and its opposition to the use of force.

Following is the text of the Cuban ambassador's speech before a formal meeting of the Security Council:

Mr. President:

I wish to express thanks for the opportunity afforded me to voice before the Security Council the position of a UN member-state on this important issue.

I must say that the circumstances surrounding the convening of this formal session of the council do not facilitate the exercise of this right.

Cuba has always stood by the Haitian people throughout a common history and culture that are full of points of contact between our nations.

We understand the profound suffering of our Haitian brothers and the bitter dilemma facing their legitimate authorities who were elected by popular vote.

We voice our country's full support for constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who represents the will of the people.

We feel that under these circumstances, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have an enormous historic responsibility—a responsibility that is shared, I think, overwhelmingly by the Security Council members from our region.

This is why we give great importance to the session of the Latin American and Caribbean group held 72 hours ago, because we think the Security Council should give the weight it deserves [peso real] to the opinion of this continent's member-states of the United Nations when considering this issue.

It is not a priority at this time to give an opinion on our serious concern over the text of the draft resolution or the secretary general's reports, and not even on the position that describes the Haitian situation as a threat to regional peace and security—a position that is new and distant from the precepts established by the UN Charter regarding the Security Council's powers.

We also do not want to give an opinion about the contrived means and stereotypes that serve as a precedent for the attitudes in Paragraph 4 or for the abuses of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

We also do not want to give an opinion about an omission: that the return of President Aristide is a condition for the restoration of democratic order.

The absolute absence of terms noting the provisional nature of this operation is alarming. It is a fundamental mistake that precludes an objective analysis of the dimensions and the true extent of the operations they are trying to carry out.

Actually, what motivates us is the desire to explain my country's position before this "Chronicle of an Announced Invasion."

The history of Haiti did not begin with the September 1991 military coup d'etat. What were the causes? Who are the coupists and where did they come from?

The de facto military regime is the expression of a dictatorship that was created, maintained, and financed by the United States for decades. The coup d'etat was the result of that policy.

The question of how is it possible for coupist military officers to remain in power, while challenging the international community and making its sanctions useless, has only one answer: The coupist military officers are receiving contradictory signals from different groups in power in the country in which we are now present.

Mr. President: This resolution backs military intervention, which will be multinational or perhaps Inter-American, as is mentioned in several documents. We wish to reiterate that Cuba considers that the roads to find a peaceful solution to the Haitian conflict have not yet been traversed.

This would be unprecedented in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean, which has a sad history of military intervention, to cover a military intervention with a different blanket, which will never have and does not have the support of the states in our region, especially in this so-called new age following the Cold War.

Cuba reiterates its firm and principled position that opposes intervention as a means to resolve domestic conflicts. History has shown that military operations cannot really resolve domestic conflicts for the simple reason that they cannot resolve the causes of those conflicts.

Decisions of this nature go beyond the mandate of the Security Council, because Chapter 7 of the UN Charter only authorizes such action in cases in which peace and international security are clearly threatened.

It is necessary to preserve mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts contained in the Charter, because it is absolutely unfeasible and extremely dangerous to world peace and security for international policy to be based on the use of force.

If anything is, in itself, a fundamental and serious threat to peace and security, it is military action of this nature in the Caribbean region. It is a fact that actions carried out previously, the deployment of large forces, the use of modern means of combat, and military exercises cause instability in neighboring states.

We must warn about the threat this military deployment represents to the security and sovereignty of Cuba in a theater of operations in which our country is involved in light of the presence of the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo, which is usurping our territory against the rights and will of our people and government.

For these reasons, because of its Latin American vocation, and because of its commitment to the principles of nonintervention and its opposition to the use of threats or force, Cuba is expressing its position contrary to this plan.

Thank you.

Invasion Termed "Threat" to Havana

PA3107184194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish
1735 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] United Nations, 31 Jul (PL)—Cuba is expressly opposed to military intervention as a means to resolve domestic conflicts, Bruno Rodriguez, the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, asserted today.

In statements to the UN Security Council, which adopted a resolution on military force and which would be applied to Haiti, the Cuban representative pointed out that history has shown that military operations cannot resolve domestic conflicts because they cannot resolve the causes of those conflicts.

"Decisions of this nature go beyond the mandate of the Security Council, because Chapter 7 of the UN Charter only authorizes such action in cases in which peace and international security is clearly threatened," the Cuban charge d'affaires added.

He asserted it is necessary to preserve mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts contained in the Charter, because it is absolutely unfeasible and extremely dangerous to world peace and security for international policy to be based on the use of force.

"This resolution backs military intervention, which will be multinational or perhaps inter-American this time, as is mentioned in several documents. We wish to reiterate that Cuba considers that the roads to find a peaceful solution to this problem have still not been traversed," Rodriguez asserted.

He noted that military action of this kind in the Caribbean region is a serious and fundamental threat to peace and security. He said that previous actions, the deployment of large numbers of troops, modern fighting equipment, and military exercises have led to instability in neighboring states.

He said: "We must warn about the threat this military deployment represents to the security and sovereignty of Cuba in a theater of operations in which our country is involved in light of the presence of the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo, which is usurping our territory against the rights and will of our people and government."

In another part of his speech, the Cuban charge d'affaires said Haiti's history did not begin with the September 1991 military coup. He added that the de facto military regime is the expression of a dictatorship that was created, maintained, and financed by the United States for decades, and, in turn, the coup resulted from this policy.

Radio Cites Haitian Provisional President Address

FL0108130294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 1 Aug 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] Provisional Haitian President Emile Jonassaint declared a state of siege as a means of waging war in response to the UN Security Council resolution authorizing military intervention in that Caribbean country to expel the military junta in power and restore democracy. Emile Jonassaint added: The intolerable has fallen on Haiti; the entire world has declared war on poor Haiti, which has not harmed anyone. Jonassaint made these remarks and reiterated his determination to resist in an address in French and Creole that was carried on radio and television. Jonassaint added: We cannot withdraw; I ask that we assume our duty as Haitians with pride and courage.

UN Commissioner on Haitian Refugees, Repatriation
PA3007035194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish
2220 GMT 29 Jul 94

[By Jose Llanos Camejo]

[Text] Guantanamo, Cuba, 29 Jul (PL)—He was born poor, which is the same as saying he was born destitute. His face reflects weariness and exhaustion at 22: He is Haitian, the only reason why he wants to remain unidentified.

With a lost youth, he is trying to support his family, because his father died too soon. He arrived for the second time along Cuban coasts searching for the route that will lead him to Miami following a hasty flight, which, he insists, saved him from death.

"I am my mother's eldest pickaninny [pikinini], and should I die, my two little brothers would starve, he said with a faltering voice that reflects grief, adding: They want to kill me in Haiti just because I am looking for a job to support my kin. This is why I want to go to the United States. I believe I could make money there by painting, which is my job," he has said.

He recounts: "The wind tore the sail of our boat, and the current carried us to Cuban coasts. May God allow the end of abuses in my country so I can return to my mother."

The case of this youth, who insists on remaining unidentified, is not the exception. He is one of the 385 Haitians, including 25 children and 57 women, who arrived at this island in July on board flimsy boats.

Punta de Maisi, a community on the eastern Cuban tip located 1,100 km from Havana, is now sheltering them at the international refugee camp, where the Haitian refugees receive food and medical treatment, among other cares. Alberto Aragon, the UN high commissioner for refugees [UNHCR] official in Cuba, pleasantly recognized during his recent visit to the camp.

Aragon said: "The Havana government is again showing its determination to cooperate with the UNHCR, judging from the treatment given to the Haitians on the island and the urgent measures taken in case a large number of people from Haiti arrive."

Cuba is expanding its facilities to house immigrants in compliance with the agreements signed with the UNHCR, agreements that also include the voluntary repatriation for the refugees.

Hundreds of Haitians personally decided to return to their country in 1991 and 1992 by boarding direct flights from Guantanamo (approximately 950 km from Havana) to Port-au-Prince. More than 40 Haitians decided not to return and are living on the Isle of Youth, south of Havana.

Arango said, nevertheless, the possibilities for an immediate repatriation are slim, adding "the sanctions

imposed against Haiti by the UN Security Council and the nonconstructive position taken by Haiti's military leadership have diminished the possibilities of holding negotiations, thus ignoring procedures. The UNHCR is continuing its negotiations, however, and once the crisis is resolved, we will repatriate those who want to be repatriated."

Meanwhile, approximately 400 Haitians in Punta de Maisi are wading through uncertainty and hopelessness, waiting for a future that will allow them to return to their fatherland to live a respectable life together their relatives.

Havana Preparing 'Contingency Plan' for Haitian Refugees

PA3007185894 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1727 GMT
30 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Havana, 30 Jul (DPA)—The Cuban Government has prepared a "contingency plan" to confront the possible massive arrival of Haitian refugees, according to a UN official.

Alberto Aragon, adviser to the UNHCR office in Havana, said the exodus of refugees from the neighboring Caribbean country "might have an explosive moment" in the near future, apparently alluding to reports about an imminent invasion of Haiti. He added that Cuba's official plan, as part of agreements between the Cuban Government and the UNHCR, includes the installation of refugee camps in six provinces in the eastern part of the island.

At least 385 Haitian refugees, including 57 women and 25 children, have arrived in Cuba aboard flimsy boats during the month of July. The refugees received humanitarian treatment in an international camp set up in Punta de Maisi in the nation's easternmost region. One Red Cross spokesman noted that Cuba is currently expanding its lodging facilities for Haitians who arrive in the eastern part of the island. [passage omitted]

The Cuban Government supports President Aristide, but it rejects the embargo policy and possible military intervention.

Between 1991 and 1993, hundreds of Haitian refugees returned voluntarily to Port-au-Prince aboard direct flights from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, some 1,000 km east of Havana, although about 50 decided not to return and are currently sheltered on the Isle of Youth (former Isla de Pinos).

Aragon described the possibility of their immediate repatriation as being slim.

"The sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on Haiti and the nonconstructive position adopted by the military leadership have decreased the possibility of negotiations and have hindered proceedings," the UNHCR representative in Cuba stated.

Fidel Castro Meets Ecuador's Paredes*FL2907163094 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jul 94*

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] President Fidel Castro has met Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes at the Palace of the Revolution. Paredes, who arrived in Cuba yesterday for an official visit, conveyed a message of friendship from Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran Ballen to Fidel Castro.

Paredes has also met Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina at the Foreign Ministry and Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada at the headquarters of the National Assembly of the People's Government. Paredes also met Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas with whom he analyzed the possibilities of strengthening trade relations through the sale of Cuban biopharmaceutical products in exchange for food staples from Ecuador. They also discussed cooperation in agriculture, tourism, and other sectors.

[Begin Paredes recording] The day has been fulfilling. I have had the opportunity of holding an exceptional conversation with Foreign Minister Robaina. We spoke for a very long time. However, even more important was the deep, friendly, and frank manner in which we have broached all issues: the economy, cooperation, and political issues. I believe that the dialogue that exists between Cuba and Ecuador is excellent. I am sure that it is the same dialogue that exists between all of our countries, specifically Latin American countries. [end recording]

Paredes on Economic Trade*FL2907225994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Jul 94*

[Report by Roberto Cavada for the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes carried out his second day of activities in Havana today, on the invitation from his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina Gonzalez.

Dr. Paredes' busy agenda included an early morning meeting with Ernesto Melendez, Cuban minister for foreign investments and economic cooperation. He later visited the Higher Institute of Agrarian and Livestock Sciences in Havana, where he was particularly interested in developments concerning several varieties of plantains grown on the island.

Upon conclusion of his morning activities, Foreign Minister Diego Paredes talked with Radio Rebelde about future ties between Ecuador and Cuba in the economic sector, one of the main goals for his trip to Havana.

[Begin Paredes recording] I believe there is a possibility of doing important things in the practical, economic sector. Our relations have been political and very little has been done in the economic sector, but I believe the

possibilities are there. We were pleased to see that a high percentage of Cuba's current trade—40 percent—is carried out in Latin America. I believe this is good and it should be encouraged. I think Ecuador can support this and open doors in the tourism sector, and in the sale and purchase of products that we have to offer and that you can give us.

I met with the tourism minister and with the foreign trade minister. We talked about the possibility... [pauses] we talked about products that Ecuador can sell, particularly agricultural products. The important thing is to find the mechanisms that allow us to barter and to carry out the flexible, modern trade our countries need. What we really want is to execute specific plans even if they are not so ambitious in the beginning, as far as figures are concerned, but we want to do it right now. [end recording]

The media confirmed that Cuban President Fidel Castro yesterday received Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes at the Council of Ministers. Shortly before his departure, Foreign Minister Paredes will hold a news conference and meet with a group of tourism businessmen at Varadero Beach.

Paredes Concludes Visit*FL0108012694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Jul 94*

[Report by Roberto Cavada Barreras; from the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes Pena has departed for his country after completing a full agenda, which included an important meeting with Cuban businessmen and a news conference with local and foreign reporters accredited to Havana. Paredes said that one of the goals of his visit was to strengthen practical and specific bilateral relations. The Ecuadoran foreign minister and Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, his Cuban counterpart, signed three agreements on tourism, agriculture, and diplomatic academies before Paredes' departure:

[Begin Paredes recording] We signed a research cooperation agreement. We have seen important technological progress on developing bananas that are resistant to diseases which prevail in our area. Bananas are one of Ecuador's main exports. We also signed a bilateral agreement involving our diplomatic academies. Ecuador has many important products to sell Cuba, products that Cuba may need today. We want tourists from other continents to feel doubly attracted when they are offered a package that includes the beauty of this region and this country and our country. [end recording]

The Ecuadoran foreign minister met the tourism, foreign trade, foreign investment, and cooperation ministers and the National Assembly of the People's Government president during his three-day visit to Cuba. He also

visited the biotechnology center and the Institute of Agrarian and Livestock Sciences, in Havana.

Raul Castro Meets Visiting Vietnamese General

FL2907172894 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jul 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Raul Castro, Revolutionary Armed Forces minister and Cuban Communist Party Central Committee second secretary, has met Vietnamese Army General Vo Nguyen Giap.

General Vo Nguyen Giap led Vietnamese troops to victory in the battle of Dien Bien Phu against the French Army and is a hero of the SRV. Vo Nguyen Giap participated in the festivities and in the main event of the 26 July Anniversary.

Raul Castro briefed Vo Nguyen Giap on Cuba's situation, the government, and the Cuban people's efforts to press forward in the crucial tasks and the struggle to overcome the current situation. Vo Nguyen Giap explained the tasks that the Vietnamese Communist Party is undertaking to continue the construction of socialism in today's world.

Raul Castro Meets Colombian Defense Minister

PA3107120294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0335 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Havana, 30 Jul (PL)—Colombian Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda arrived tonight in Cuba for an official and friendly visit. He was welcomed by Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR).

Upon welcoming him at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, Raul Castro showed interest in Pardo Rueda's health and that of the other members of the Colombian entourage and asked if they had enjoyed their trip.

The Colombian minister is accompanied by Deputy Defense Minister Juan Pablo Cabal Cabal, International Relations Director Mauricio Jimenez, Military Escort Major Cruz, Secretary Jaime Vazquez, and Pardo Rueda's wife, Claudia de Francisco.

The Colombian delegation will remain in Cuba until 1 August and tomorrow will tour various scientific-technological and military sites, such as the Genetic and Biotechnology Institute, the Finlay Institute, the FAR's General Maximo Gomez Academy, and the western Army's Tunnel No. 4, among others.

Also at the airport were Vilma Espin, president of the Cuban Women's Federation, ranking FAR and Interior Ministry chiefs and officers, Colombian Ambassador Ricardo Santamaria, and several Colombian diplomats in Havana.

Canadian Official Praises AEC, Cuban Membership

PA3107045194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1540 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Report by Martin Hachoun]

[Text] Havana, 28 Jul (PL)—Canada today praised the creation of the Association of Caribbean States (AEC), particularly Cuba's inclusion in that organization, saying it is a "healthy development" in the region's desire for integration.

"Canada has always believed that the economic and political cooperation and integration of the Caribbean is a very desirable situation, and we are pleased that this first positive step has been taken," Eduardo Del Buey, a spokesman for the Canadian Foreign Ministry, told PRENSA LATINA in a telephone interview.

Regarding Cuba's presence in the AEC despite U.S. pressure to exclude it, the spokesman said that Ottawa "views Cuba's inclusion in that organization as positive because, after all, it is an organization for regional negotiation and integration," he said.

Del Buey recalled Canada's position that Cuba "should be a part of hemispheric events" and stressed "the healthy bonds between Canada and Cuba in economic, commercial, and political spheres." He emphasized that these bonds were strengthened by the recent visit to Havana of Christine Stewart, minister of state for Latin America and Africa.

The AEC, created during a summit meeting in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia on 24 July, is the fourth largest economic bloc in the world.

It is made up of 25 independent nations and 11 dependent territories with a population of more than 200 million people and a GDP of \$500 million.

Its export potential is estimated at \$80 million, and its imports exceed \$105 million.

Regarding the significance of the creation of the AEC vis-a-vis a desire for greater regional integration, the Canadian official stressed that from Ottawa's point of view, "it is a very healthy development."

"Canada has always advocated the region's economic and political integration because it is a way to face the issues collectively, to funnel each country's resources toward better economic development, and to facilitate talks, which are always desirable," Del Buey said.

"The creation of this organization at the very moment when there is so much talk of hemispheric ties growing closer each day seems very opportune," he said.

Del Buey also said Canada has maintained strong ties with other integrative elements in the regions such as Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] and the Association for the Development of Democracy and foresees beneficial ties with the AEC.

In that sense, he said Canada "is waiting to see how the organization takes shape and contacts us to then explore areas for mutual cooperation" through existing programs or by adapting existing programs to the new organization.

By having "very good relations" with all members of the AEC in trade and development promoting matters, "perhaps, instead of creating something new, it could be a process of restructuring existing relationships and mechanisms to approach this new association," the Canadian spokesman said.

Activities With Cubans Abroad To Begin in Sep

FL2807212294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Beginning in September several activities will be held between Cubans on the island and residents abroad as a continuation of the contacts that began at the Nation and the Emigre Community conference. A conference on Cuban Women and Their Role in Society will be the first of those activities and will be held on 3 and 4 September in Matanzas. A meeting is also scheduled for national and emigre reporters between October and November. Next year, the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists [UNEAC] will host an academic meeting.

Jose Ramon Cabana, head of the directorate on issues of Cubans living abroad, also pointed out that some emigrants would most likely attend the discussions on the issue of nationality and citizenship by the National Assembly of the People's Government's Commission on Judicial Issues.

Colombian Airlines Authorized for Flights to Cuba

FL2907014194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jul 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] It was reported in Santa Fe de Bogota that schedules should be established soon for two Colombian airlines, AVIANCA and SAM, which have been authorized for regular flights to Cuba, once a permit is issued by local Civil Aeronautics authorities. The decision was adopted in a public hearing chaired by Colombian Civil Aeronautics Director Fernando (Zarama) and attended by representatives from various national and international airlines.

Martinez Corona Elected President of Havana City's ANPP

FL2907135694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jul 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Conrado Martinez Corona was elected president of the People's Government Provincial Assembly [ANPP] in Havana City during a special session held at

the Palacio Nacional de Bellas Artes. The meeting was chaired by Politburo members Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, and Jorge Lezcano Perez. Machado Ventura stated that Comrade Martinez would head an energetic assembly that would comply with the tasks entrusted by the Communist Party of Cuba and the Government during these difficult times.

Martinez, the new anpp president of Havana City, is a deputy to the National Assembly of the People's Government and has headed the National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute for nine years.

Raul Castro Chairs Western PCC Analysis Meeting

FL2907225494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Jul 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] General of the Army Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], is chairing an analysis meeting of the PCC in the western provinces. More complete information from reporter Margarita Torres:

The main objective of this meeting, of authentic PCC character, is to analyze ways to confront the challenges of the special period, the strengthened imperialist blockade, and the United States' immoderate campaign against Cuba.

The meeting is characterized by analyzing problems in a different manner because our problems are different today. The method that is being used is not to report on former balances, but to see where the current difficulties lie, and differentiating between subjective and objective aspects and how many of these can be solved with local resources; the serious problems of our internal economy, especially the low level of food supplies, particularly in Havana City; the gas, water, and cooking fuel supply, worsened in some instances by negligence or lack of demand. These are issues to be broached today and tomorrow by the PCC leaders of Pinar del Rio, Havana Province, Havana City Province, and Isla de la Juventud.

Several Politburo members, government officials, provincial People's Government members, Havana City deputies to the National Assembly of the People's Government, and a large group of reporters, invited by Raul Castro, are participating in this meeting.

The distinctive traits of this meeting are: open dialogue, leaving behind smug attitudes and the habit of highlighting positive aspects, and strengthening the unity around the PCC by students, workers, and farmers trying to find solutions to huge problems.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Fidel, Raul Castro Meet With Western Province Leaders

PA3107024994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish
2158 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Havana, 30 Jul (PL)—The National Information Agency (AIN) has reported that political and government leaders of western Cuba continued to analyze for the second consecutive day the main problems affecting the population of this territory.

The meeting, presided over by Fidel and Raul Castro, first and second secretaries of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), respectively, brought together in this capital the most important officials of political, communist youth, and popular organizations as well as some businessmen from the region.

According to the source, current national issues such as the search for methods to increase production and improve food distribution were discussed during the second day of the meeting.

In addition, the achievements of the sugar cane industry and the manner by which residents of the capital and the special municipality of Isle of Youth, south of Havana, face their problems were highlighted during the meeting.

The source added that extensive reports prepared by Alfredo Jordan, agriculture minister; Nelson Torres, sugar industry minister; Jorge Lezcano, acting PCC first secretary in Havana City; and Emilio Gonzalez, Lezcano's counterpart on Isle of Youth, triggered the discussions.

As he spoke briefly before the audience, Fidel Castro urged his fellow nationals, from the rank and file to the highest leadership, to work together to find a solution to the difficult situation their country is experiencing.

Meanwhile, Raul Castro said this meeting, as well as others held recently in Holguin with the eastern provinces and in Santa Clara with the central provinces, were not held to report on the problems but to rally for the fight and to praise the beliefs that make Cubans proud.

He emphasized: "We must separate material limitations from subjective limitations and fight against the former by searching for creative solutions within our reach, without trying to blame the blockade (the U.S. economic blockade) or the special period for the mistakes and deficiencies."

"The only option Cubans have is to overcome adversity," stressed Raul Castro during his speech—a speech that also recalled those who, on this 30 July, Martyrs of the Revolution Day, and "fighting under the most adverse conditions, never lost faith in their victory."

The food distribution to the population and the need to encourage agricultural production were discussed during yesterday's meeting.

Council Vice President on Continuing Socialist Plan

PA2807233394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish
1439 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Quito, 28 Jul (PL)—Today, Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, affirmed the position of the leaders and people of the Caribbean island to continue strengthening the country's socialist plan, despite the strong U.S. blockade.

During a meeting with Ecuadoran Solidarity With Cuba organizations, Fernandez said that despite the difficult economic situation confronted by the island, the social system chosen by Cubans more than 34 years ago will remain unchanged, despite the negative predictions the enemies of the revolution are making.

Fernandez said the biggest enemy the country has is the economic, financial, and commercial blockade imposed by Washington, a blockade sanctioned [sancionado] by most of the UN member countries and the Latin American peoples.

The Cuban official said the Cuban Government has adopted measures, such as the implementation of 1982's Law No. 50 on investments by foreign companies, in an attempt to save the social achievements of the revolution. The law contemplates the presence of oil companies from several countries with encouraging results, Fernandez added.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Jose Marti Cuban-Ecuadoran Institute and the Solidarity With Cuba National Coordinating Board reiterated their unconditional support for the island and promised to increase their aid activities.

Dominican Republic

Parties React to U.S. Proposal on Elections

PA3007000894 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2153 GMT
29 Jul 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 29 Jul (DPA)—Dominican political parties had various reactions today to a U.S. State Department proposal to hold new elections in the country due to serious irregularities detected in the process.

The main opposition party, the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), was the only party that openly supported the proposal made by Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, a congressional commission reported stated yesterday.

PRD presidential candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said the U.S. Government's position confirms the protests made by his party and said the irregularities reported by the U.S. State Department are grave. Those irregularities included the altering of voters lists, which kept more than 200,000 people from voting.

The report also noted the number of votes cast surpassed by several thousands the number of registered voters in eight of the 30 Dominican provinces.

Meanwhile, the ruling Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) described the proposal to hold new elections as "U.S. Government intervention."

PRSC Political Secretary Federico Antun said his party will not accept U.S. meddling in the Dominican Republic's internal affairs. He added "the Central Electoral Board should resolve any irregularity or situation related to the past elections, without the intervention of any foreign nation, no matter how powerful that nation may be."

The Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) admitted there were irregularities during the past elections but warned the situation should be handled by the Dominican, without U.S. intervention in any case.

In a press communique issued today, the PLD stated "the detected irregularities justify a meeting of all political parties to decide, by common agreement, the establishment of a provisional government that will call new elections."

The communique added "all of that must be done by Dominicans, without the participation of the United States or any other nation, which would be a violation of our national sovereignty."

The note stated the PLD, in principle, favors the establishment of a provisional government under the premise "no government emerging from the past elections would have the necessary moral force to guide the nation's destiny."

Reporters Arrested, Freed on Haitian Border

PA3007223994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2150 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Jul (EFE)—Six foreign reporters, including a team from the U.S. network CNN, who were filming the situation on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic were released today, Saturday, following their arrest yesterday.

This information was included in a report published by the Santo Domingo daily EL NACIONAL, which states that a U.S. citizen known only as Christopher, Belgian Nicolas Garcia, both of whom work for CNN, and Dominican Gonel Franco, director of Radio Beller, were arrested in the border city of Dajabon in the north.

According to an Armed Forces spokesman, the reporters were detained to save their lives when they entered an area that is off limits to civilians.

According to the newspaper, a report from Dajabon Province stated that the CNN team had filmed a Dominican soldier shooting a Haitian. It was not possible to confirm this report.

Three other U.S. reporters working in Jimani in the southern Dominican Republic were detained in the area known as Tierra Nueva, but they have also been released.

Dominican Government employees explained that the detentions were made because the government has pledged to fulfill the international organizations' mandate to seal the border.

Haiti

Jonassaint Decrees State of Siege, Prepares for Battle

PY3107115494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0804 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 1 Aug (EFE)—Emile Jonassaint, the Haitian de facto president, decreed today a state of siege in response to the UN resolution authorizing a military intervention to restore democracy.

In a radio and television address, Jonassaint said that "we are preparing for the battle of Haiti," and that "we will wage it with all our might; it will be a tough one."

TV Carries Jonassaint Address

FL0108160194 Port-au-Prince Television Nationale d'Haiti in French 0630 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Address to the nation by provisional President Emile Jonassaint on 1 August; last paragraph in Creole—live or recorded]

[Text] [Words indistinct] the intolerable has swooped down upon us. Sadness and scorn assail us. Nevertheless, nobody in the world should make the fatal mistake of doubting our courage or our determination to protect what is essential at all costs. Our country's misfortunes stem from differing interpretations, loose international political morals, the violation of our most basic rights, a curious reading of the UN Charter, and the backing of a group of Haitians with delinquent ethics and limited savoir-faire who have been shaped by passing governments in the shadow of foreign powers.

Following snubs and intimidation, an embargo and isolation based on simple-minded racism, and the negation of all our values, war is now openly declared on a state that neither threatens anyone nor jeopardizes international peace and safety in any way. It may be Haiti's turn today, but what sovereign state will be next?

Men and women of my country: In light of the intolerable, I urge you—considering any and all political passions transcended—to proudly and courageously assume our duty as Haitians. The threat of invasion and occupation of our country is about to materialize, 79 years after the U.S. Marines landed on national soil. As the person in charge of the nation's fate, at this tragic moment in our history I want to calmly reassure you of

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

my faith in our future as a state, a nation, and a people. Haiti's battle is being prepared. We will wage it with all our might and all our means. It will be hard, implacable, but we will face things.

I offer a testimony of friendship, respect, and solidarity to the people of this world, to the foreigners who share our tragedy in a brotherly manner. Above all, I want all of the Pontius Pilates here and everywhere to know that the people refuse to fail and falter, with their unity, dignity, and pride protected despite all. This could be the most beautiful experience we've ever had, for it will allow us to maintain and pass on to our children and grandchildren the 1804 oath of Freedom or Death. We have done a lot and now quietly await the dawn. Men and women of my country, I thank you.

Let me now address Reverend Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide with a few words: *Wes sacerdos in eternum*. As you speak Hebrew fluently, you must know the word that the high priest said once a year in the Jerusalem temple and only in the presence of the priests and in the holiest place [words indistinct]. I ask you to utter this word for your country, for your people, for the entire world, and for the entire universe so that brotherhood and peace can finally reign on our land of exile. Thank you.

Let me now say a few words in Creole to the people. I will be very short. Haitian people: Our situation is grave. War has been declared on us even though we have not done anything to anybody. The international community, the entire world has declared war on poor Haiti. Haiti does not have the atomic bomb and cannot defend itself against the international community. They may be able to reduce Haiti to ashes within a few minutes, but that will not cause us to draw back. We can no longer draw back. I only want to say: Don't lose hope. We are not alone on Earth; we are not alone on Earth. We have protectors that nobody knows. Everybody will see that someday. Then, let them do what they want. Thank you.

De Facto Government Calls Cabinet Meeting on UN Vote

PA3107210794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2038 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 31 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The de facto government announced today that it called an urgent cabinet meeting at the National Palace shortly after being informed of the UN Security Council vote authorizing a military intervention in Haiti.

Port-au-Prince radio stations reported this afternoon that no unusual activity had been observed around the Grand General Police Headquarters or the National Palace.

A source close to the military disclosed that Colonel Michel Francois, chief of police, is having a big party at his home today. Francois is one of the three military chiefs who must resign from their posts, according to the Security Council.

General Phillippe Biambi, Gen. Raoul Cedras' right-hand man, who must also resign from his post, was seen this morning in shirt sleeves driving alone in a vehicle.

"They are certain there will be no invasion," said a source close to Biambi.

The same source confirmed that former U.S. President George Bush, accompanied by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, had arrived in Haiti to meet with the military high command.

Meanwhile, most Haitians on the streets seem resigned to an inevitable invasion. "Let them do what they must...the quicker the better," said a merchant interviewed in the capital.

Anti-Intervention Statement Signed at Rally

FL2907210894 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Excerpts] In Port-au-Prince, a demonstration was staged on 28 July to mark the 79th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Haiti. Between 2,000 and several thousand people participated in this demonstration. Rothschild Francois filed a report:

[Begin Francois recording] There were about 2,000, according to international press agencies; several thousand, according to the organizers, who took to the streets on 28 July to say no to foreign intervention in Haiti. The Civic Initiative and Action Group, which initiated the movement, wanted to mark the 79th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Haiti with this march, utilizing the slogan: *Nevermore!*

The demonstrators, beginning at the Biscentenaire area, stopped for at least an hour before the U.S. Embassy. Using songs and posters, the participants clearly displayed their opposition to an invasion of Haiti in any form. On the roof of the U.S. Embassy, three armed Marines, entrenched behind sandbags, watched the demonstrators, who were escorted by an impressive security force.

During this demonstration, which took place in a carnival atmosphere, the participants also recommended holding elections in Haiti, indicating that President-in-Exile Aristide cannot return to the country, while saying no to the intervention. [passage omitted]

The personalities who came to bring their support to the 28 July rally included legislators, members of the Jonassaint government, and leaders of political organizations. Emmanuel Constant of FRAPH [Armed Revolutionary Front of the Haitian People] finds it necessary to protest not only the invasion, but also to demonstrate against hunger. [passage omitted] The minister of foreign affairs of the Jonassaint government told us that he remains very confident about a solution to the crisis. Charles David explains that he wanted to make a point of condemning any form of foreign intervention in Haiti. [passage omitted]

The date 28 July was also marked by the publication of an antiintervention statement, called Manifesto of Haitian National Dignity. The supporters of this 28 July movement appended their signature at the bottom of this statement, which was placed before a bust of Charlemagne Perralte in the Museum of the National Pantheon.

It should be noted that provisional President Jonassaint and General Cedras were due to sign this manifesto, denouncing the occupation and promoting national resistance. It should also be noted that the anti-invasion demonstrations ended late in the evening at the Oxide Jeanty Kiosk in Champ-de-Mars. [end recording]

Former Aristide Organizer: Rally 'Indecent'

FL2907214094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Father Antoine Adrien, former coordinator of the presidential commission created in 1992 by President Aristide, calls the 28 July demonstration indecent. This demonstration was organized to protest U.S. intervention, and was launched by political organizations close to the government and the Army. Father Adrien denounces the fact that only a small category of people are permitted to demonstrate in the country. He challenges the Army to give all the people authorization to demonstrate for only two hours, and everyone will become aware of the position of the majority of the population.

Union Calls Electoral Process 'Demagoguery'

FL2907195794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] This process of holding elections, set in motion at the beginning of the week by the provisional government, has given rise to much grumbling. The Confederation of National Unions [Confederation des Syndicats Nationaux, CSN] calls the electoral process set in motion by the Exceptional Electoral Council, now known as the Permanent Electoral Council, demagoguery. CSN Secretary General Charles Dartagnan told Signal FM that this is not the way to resolve the crisis. General Cedras must resign to avoid the worst that can happen to the country.

Former Prime Minister Opposes Elections

FL2907220194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Former Prime Minister Marc Bazin opposes holding elections as a solution to the crisis. It is necessary to solve the crisis first, in order to hold elections, he stated. The MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] leader's overview of the current situation favors peaceful negotiation.

[Begin Bazin recording] Haiti today is a country stuck at all levels: politically, economically, socially, and I would even say, psychologically. We are openly threatened by foreign military intervention. Within a few hours, the

last plane that links our island to the rest of the world will stop flying. At all levels and in all sectors, what prevails is confusion, anxiety, and despair. We do not know where we are going, what is in store for us, or what tomorrow will bring. The U.S. dollar is at more than 240 percent. A gallon of gasoline costs between 125 and 150 gourdes; a sack of rice is up to 500 gourdes; a sack of white sugar costs 600 gourdes, prices that are senseless, unbelievable, in any case, intolerable for our people, the poorest of the poor.

At that rate, how much time do we have, in what condition, and what is there to do, if we really want to avoid the irreparable? What is the priority for the time being for Haiti and for Haitians? These are the questions. No electoral operation, the material conditions of which are not met, can bring a satisfactory answer to these questions. On the contrary, at this advanced level of deterioration, and degradation of the social fabric, and in the current atmosphere of trouble, of storm and distress of the Haitian people, what should concern us is not how to use elections to attempt to solve the crisis, but how to solve the crisis in order to hold elections.

To solve the crisis, we at MIDH continue to see only one path: peaceful compromise through negotiation, based on reciprocal sacrifices. It is the path of good sense. It is the path of reason. [end recording]

PANPRA, MIDH Intend To Forge Elections

FL2907202294 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Haitian socialists and centrists of all leanings announced on 28 July that they would not participate in the elections scheduled for the beginning of the month of November. The Permanent Electoral Council has not yet officially announced the nature of its elections—whether they will be legislative or presidential elections, leaving the executive to make that decision. Sources close to Serge Gilles of the Nationalistic Progressive and Revolutionary Party of Haiti, PANPRA, one branch of Haitian socialism, pointed out that his party does not acknowledge the government of provisional President Emile Jonassaint and will not participate in these elections.

Deputy Antoine Joseph, former president of the Chamber of Deputies and an official of the country's principal centrist party, the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH, of Marc Bazin—told AFP that his party would not participate either in this electoral consultation. The economic, social, and political environment is not appropriate for that, the parliamentarian pointed out. [passage omitted]

Deputy 'Pessimistic' About Altering Constitution

FL2907195294 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Deputy Gabriel Sanon says he is pessimistic about the Chamber of Deputies' adoption of the text that

will be proposed by the commission in charge of modifying the 1987 Constitution. Deputy Sanon says the members of the 45th Legislature are irresponsible absentees. [passage omitted]

Air France Suspends Flights

*PA3007235194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1916 GMT
30 Jul 94*

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 30 Jul (DPA)—The Caribbean republic of Haiti has been left virtually isolated following the move by Air France, the last of the international

airlines to fly in and out of the country, to suspend its flights. The French company's last flight out of Port-au-Prince took off today for the neighboring Dominican Republic.

After one month, Air France decided to join the air embargo imposed by the United States and other nations. The suspension of the airline's flights is part of the embargo directed at toppling the military leadership that ousted Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991.

There are no indications, however, that these measures will succeed.

UN Envoy Rejects Decision on Haiti, Says Force Not Justified*PA3107215094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2049 GMT 31 Jul 94**[Report by correspondent Ricardo Alday]*

[Text] New York, 31 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Mexico today strongly criticized the UN Security Council and Secretary General Butrus-Ghali for authorizing a military invasion of Haiti.

"There are not enough elements to justify the use of force, much less to grant a general authorization for action by unspecified multinational forces," said Victor Flores Olea, Mexico's ambassador to the United Nations.

The measure was passed with 12 votes in favor and two abstentions (China and Brazil) under pressure from the U.S. Government and with the nod from UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

"Mexico doubts the timeliness of the resolution and profoundly regrets that the Security Council has concluded that it is necessary to resort to the use of force to resolve the crisis in Haiti," said the ambassador.

Flores Olea firmly defended the principle of nonintervention and the peaceful solution of conflicts during the historic Security Council session, which authorized for the first time a military intervention in Latin America and the Caribbean.

He emphasized that Mexico maintains that the restoration of constitutional and democratic order in Haiti and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power "should be accomplished through a peaceful solution."

Moments before the vote on the text and addressing the Council plenum, the Mexican ambassador stressed that more time should have been allowed for the economic sanctions imposed on Haiti to take effect, and he recounted the history of interventions in the region.

"The use of force raises serious legal and practical doubts, despite [words indistinct] and diplomatic [words indistinct]," Flores Olea said.

Moreover, he added, the report acknowledges that the United Nations is not prepared to assume the role it should play in an action of this nature.

Mexico also criticized the attitude adopted by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide who, in an ambiguous letter, favored the military intervention in his country and did not demand in exchange that the international community make a clear commitment to his country's development.

"Now that President Aristide is not opposing the use of force to restore his rights and the rights of the Haitian

people, he should be calling for a large-scale international commitment in favor of the Haitian people's development, Flores Olea said.

Mexico's position was supported by almost all the countries in the region except Argentina and Haiti.

Foreign Secretariat 'Deplores' UN Resolution*PA3107213394 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2039 GMT
31 Jul 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Jul (DPA)—The Mexican Government today deplored the UN Security Council resolution giving the United States carte blanche to invade Haiti.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat issued a communique calling on the governments involved to exhaust all peaceful measures before acting in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolution.

The Foreign Secretariat said the Mexican Government "deplores the UN decision authorizing the use of threat or force as exceptional measures to resolve Haiti's crisis."

For historical reasons, and in strict adherence with foreign policy principles, Mexico "rejects the use of force except in cases of threats to peace, a break in peace, or acts of aggression."

After recognizing the "special and exceptional" character of the Haitian situation, the communique reiterated the Mexican Government's condemnation of the coup d'etat against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and its support for OAS and UN measures to reestablish a constitutional government.

The communique added that measures such as the embargo, "would have, given sufficient time and general observance, the desired effect."

The Mexican Government, the communique concludes, "does not believe that the serious Haitian crisis endangers international peace or security, thus the Mexican Government from the very beginning has encouraged and insisted on a peaceful solution through dialogue and negotiation, with the support of the international community."

Foreign Secretariat Signs Accords With Italy, Greece*PA0108005494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0109 GMT 30 Jul 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Foreign Secretariat issued three decrees today promulgating several cooperation agreements with Greece and Italy, as well as with the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain, and Portugal.

One of the agreements, which was published in the official gazette, establishes that attempts will be made to

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

promote and consolidate cooperation with Greece regarding tourism by simplifying procedures and documents and exchanging advertising material.

The framework cooperation agreement with Italy is intended to consolidate bilateral cooperation with specific projects in areas of mutual interest, to establish joint business ventures, and to further commerce and investment.

The promulgation of the fifth additional protocol to the Constitution of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain, and Portugal defines this area as a single territory for reciprocal exchange of consignments, which will guarantee free traffic.

It states that the Union's objective is to coordinate the regulations and direction of postal activity in general among the member countries to ensure every person's right to quality public postal services.

The fifth additional protocol to the Constitution of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain, and Portugal was adopted in Montevideo, Uruguay on 23 June 1993 and went into effect on 1 January 1994.

Agenda for EZLN's National Democratic Convention Detailed

PA2907195694 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 25 Jul 94 p 77

[Report by Amalia Avendano Villafuerte]

[Excerpt] San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, 24 Jul—Once again, San Cristobal de las Casas will play host to peace talks, because the National Democratic Convention (CND) will soon begin here. About 4,000 representatives from social organizations located in different areas of the country are expected to attend the CND.

The Organizing Commission of the CND's first session, which will be held 6-9 August, has ruled that the opening session and working commissions should meet in this city. Later, convention delegates will travel to Aguascalientes in the Lacandon Jungle, where a plenary assembly will be held.

Arturo Luna of the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations (CEOIC) and spokesman for the CND Organizing Commission stated that, according to the summons, the agenda for discussions at the event will center on five working commissions, namely:

1. Transition to democracy. Inviability of the state party.
2. Peaceful avenues for moving to democracy. Elections, civil resistance, and defense of the people's will.
3. Formulation of a national project that responds to the needs and interests of the Mexican people, placing special emphasis on 11 points outlined by the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army]: housing, land, jobs, food, health, education, independence, justice, liberty, democracy, and peace, as well as other demands society may make.

4. Characteristics and guidelines for the transition government to democracy.
5. Project for holding a new Constituent Congress.

The opening session will be held at 0900 on Saturday, 6 August, and the work in the five commissions will begin immediately; proposals will be received and, as necessary, new issues will be put up for discussion.

On Sunday, 7 August, until 1200, the resolutions approved by vote in each commission will be drafted and the caravan of participants will be organized. This caravan must leave at 1430 for an unspecified location in the Chiapas jungle, which will be called Aguascalientes.

On 8 August, the plenary assembly will be installed, in which participants will discuss and analyze the resolutions of the working sessions in San Cristobal. A discussion on the presidium, which must represent the plenum and must consist of 100 delegates, will begin.

This presidium will be responsible for bringing together the assembly resolutions that will be reviewed in the jungle. It will draft the political manifesto and will have the responsibility for all work and tasks that are decided upon, as well as for summoning the next CND session.

If necessary, work will continue on 9 August, the date on which the first CND session will close. The preliminary resolutions from the CND session will be relayed by delegates to the rank and file of each organization, who will continue their work within regional, municipal, and state assemblies. [passage omitted]

San Angel Group Not To Send Delegation to EZLN Convention

PA3107144994 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jul 94

[From the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[Text] The San Angel Group held a four-hour meeting on Friday to consider, among other things, the invitation it received from the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] to attend the National Democratic Convention [CND]. It also prepared a document scheduled to be released shortly, outlining the San Angel Group's achievements, the activities it has planned for the coming weeks, the induction of new members, and the issue of the economic contributions each new member will have to make to the group.

Following the meeting, which was held at a restaurant south of the Mexican capital, Amalia Garcia Medina explained that the San Angel Group decided to send a written statement to the CND, stating that each of its members is free to attend the convention as private citizens.

[Begin recording] [Garcia Medina] We have given members of the group who have decided to attend the convention as observers full freedom to do so, and they

have our blessing. We will be signing a document that contains our specific position.

[Unidentified reporter] Will a delegation be sent?

[Garcia Medina] The San Angel Group will not send a delegation to the CND; instead, it will send a written communique. Certain comrades will attend as private individuals, but they will not be representing the group. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Tatiana Clouthier explained that after the EZLN reads the document, after the convention ends, and if the Zapatists agree, the San Angel Group may meet with the EZLN, which is headed by Subcommander Marcos. Amalia Garcia Medina said that concerning the induction of new members, it has been decided that government employees will not be accepted, because they have commitments with the government. The group, she said, must maintain its independence and freedom to make statements.

Francisco Cano Escalante announced that a commission comprising Margarita Gonzalez Gamio, Ricardo Garcia Saenz, and Escalante himself plans to meet with representative businessmen who can influence public opinion. He said that for the time being, the commission's agenda does not include meetings with figures from the various business organizations and hierarchies.

The San Angel Group also explained that it has scheduled meetings with members of the church hierarchy and with Ricardo Franco Guzman, special prosecutor for electoral crimes.

CEOIC Communique on EZLN Convention

PA3107162394 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish
29 Jul 94 p 42

[Communique from the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations of Chiapas; place and date not given; published as a paid advertisement]

[Text] Numerous reports published in local and state newspapers regarding the participation of the CEOIC [State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations] in the National Democratic Convention [CND] called by the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] and the summons to a third CEOIC meeting have forced us to make the following clarifications:

1. The CEOIC began its fight out of a desire to organize—a desire felt by the Indians and peasants of Chiapas following the EZLN's emergence.
2. For the purpose of legitimizing the Mexican state, its policy toward Chiapas State, and the country's policy of isolating the EZLN, the state itself directed certain politicians and agencies, along with several peasant organizations, to summon in January of this year a series of peasant meetings that culminated in the creation of the CEOIC.

3. For the clear purpose of controlling the emerging CEOIC, at the outset the peasant economic organizations that existed in Chiapas State were asked to join, because it was clear that these types of economic organizations which depend heavily on monetary resources and the creation of infrastructure are usually easier to recruit because their requirements are easier to meet.

4. Nevertheless, it was not possible to cast aside the struggle for land which is, by far, the oldest and most profound demand of the Chiapas peasantry. Therefore, considering that all of the economic organizations are becoming members of social organizations which, in turn, bring together land requesters, we agreed to form the CEOIC with representatives from 42 social organizations, while at the same time avoiding the leadership of government agencies.

5. The CEOIC's struggle in favor of the Indians and peasants in Chiapas and its independence from the state and political parties prompted several CCE [Executive Coordinating Commission] organizations to distance themselves from the CEOIC (SOCAMA [expansion unknown], Antorcha Campesina [Peasant Torch], ARIC, [expansion unknown], the Union of Unions, etc.), although some of them did conveniently show up for discussions but not demonstrations.

6. Nevertheless, the state itself, through its official peasant organizations, did not cease in its efforts to win over the Indian and peasant movement assembled under the CEOIC or to oppose the council's proposals to seek a solution to the overall rural problems in Chiapas.

7. The situation became clearer when the CEOIC decided to participate in the CND. This is the time when the official organizations—CNC [National Peasant Confederation], ALINCA [expansion unknown], and a faction of CAM [Mexican Agrarian Council]—together with others that had stopped participating in the CEOIC—Antorcha Campesina, ARIC, the Union of Unions, and others that are not members of the council (namely, CEC [expansion unknown], CCI [Independent Peasants Central Organization], CONSSUC [expansion unknown])—surreptitiously and deceitfully called several economic groups and peasant organizations to a spurious session at which they imposed the agreement of not participating in the CND, which originally appeared signed by 218 organizations.

8. We want to clarify that the mentioned 218 organizations coincide, with several deletions, with the attendance list of the Second Meeting of Indian and Peasant Organizations held on 22 January 1994. Therefore, in this clumsy way, they attempted to show that they have the representation of the CEOIC. This situation is evident because among the signatories included in their document are organizations in the state of Veracruz, a special CNC envoy, an observer, a municipal official, and so on. Since 37 of the alleged signatories have distanced themselves from this document, their latest document appears with 198 signatories, but it still

includes several people who have publicly disavowed it and still maintain this position.

9. Not happy with this, the state is now trying to delegitimize the CEOIC by making a call to an alleged Third CEOIC Meeting, which is only backed by the official and dependent organizations. This is yet another attempt to finish its task of dismembering the council, which has clearly worked in favor of the Chiapas peasants. The council has worked toward this goal up until now and has done so with organizations that show, by their actions and their growth, their commitment to the needs of the Chiapas peasants and not to the dictates of the state and to federal government's repressive and middle-of-the-road measures. Evidence of this is that, despite the murders, evictions, threats, and other actions, it continues to uphold a combative and responsible line with the only objective of achieving improvements for the Chiapas Indians and peasants.

We consider that a meeting cannot be called by only five organizations that have participated with questionable frequency in the CEOIC. Evidence that they do not know the CEOIC's actions is that they are calling a Third CEOIC Meeting, when this was already held on 15-16 February 1994.

10. We condemn the secessionist attitude of official organizations and their allies (CNC, ALINCA, Antorcha Campesina, etc.) and their efforts to corrupt the CEOIC, and we are making a sincere call for them to reconsider their position and to work together to build a better Chiapas. We also would like to show them that the 28 social organizations in the CEOIC's CCE do not agree with the breakup they are proposing. We continue to extend our fraternal hand to them, which is also ready to fight against our common enemies: owners of large estates, the coyotes [individuals who exploit peasants and speculate on the black market], corrupt officials, the Mexican police who oppose the peasants, etc.

11. We, the CEOIC, reiterate our decision to attend the CND and are unanimously supported by the 28 organizations in the CEOIC's CCE that attended the Special General Assembly held on 23 July 1994, because we consider that our participation in the CND will allow us to search for peaceful ways to reach democracy and better conditions for peace and life in Chiapas and in the entire country.

12. Given the difficult situation in the state of Chiapas, especially in the areas in which the CEOIC peasants and Indians live, we demand guarantees for the physical wellbeing of each one of them and their families. At the same time, we demand that the death of companero Agustin Rubio, a CIOAC [expansion unknown] member, be fully clarified.

13. The CEOIC continues to believe that dialogue and conciliation are the most effective means to resolve the problems of Chiapas, and we reaffirm our willingness to continue furthering these means to achieve the goals that

engendered the CEOIC. We demand that an attitude of equality be assumed by the state, and that each one of the social, economic, and political sectors in Chiapas and the country conscientiously assume their responsibility in the task of building peace, equality, justice, and democracy.

[Signed] For the dignity, peace, and development of our people, the CEOIC

Chiapas Peace Commissioner: EZLN on 'Red Alert'

PA3007042294 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish
28 Jul 94 p 9

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, 27 Jul—Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, Chiapas peace and reconciliation commissioner, has said he has learned the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] has declared a "red alert" due to the traffic accident suffered by Amado Avendano Figueroa, candidate for the Chiapas governorship.

Madrazo has said it is very important to clarify this accident to the very end as soon as possible in order not to interrupt the peace negotiations. He has said clarifying this incident would surely strengthen the peace process.

He has said he is still working with Mediator Samuel Ruiz Garcia, despite this situation, to review the points on the agenda for future talks with the EZLN.

Now, he has said, we are working with a very serious concern due to what happened, but we are continuing with our working plan.

Interviewed at the government's hangar in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Madrazo has said he hopes there will soon be enough evidence, based on the investigations, to clarify the accident in order to continue advancing in the peace process.

Regarding the National Democratic Convention called by the EZLN, which will take place from 6 to 9 August, he has said this convention is an opportunity for a dialogue between the EZLN and the civilian sector, a dialogue in which the peace commissioner will not participate.

New Guerrilla Group Forming in Guerrero

PA3107170094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish
25 Jul 94 pp 1, 21

[Article by correspondents Roberto Garduno and Juan Jose Guadarrama]

[Text] *Somewhere in Guerrero*—They have been seen on the mountain, in the hills, and along the Guerrero coasts; they are armed, dressed in brown and blue, and they claim to be members of a national movement.

They arrive in the communities and urge or threaten residents to join them. They tell them that after 21 August, *the race* [la raza] will come down from the

mountains brandishing their weapons. They offer the residents a change of lifestyle, urging them to leave behind their heritage of poverty.

They argue that peasants and Indians no longer have a choice, that the impunity of the police has no limits, that all of them are armed, and that the government has chosen the path of confrontation.

Federal and state authorities are denying their existence, although they have been seen and heard along the roads and hillsides. Authorities only talk about groups of drug traffickers and gang members and campaigns to seize their weapons.

LA JORNADA made a 2,800-km trek along the mountains and coasts of Guerrero State, where it collected information on an organization called the Southern Army of Liberation (ELS) [Ejercito de Liberacion del Sur], which, according to information, is getting ready to participate in a national armed movement.

In communities, hamlets, and cities such as Chilpancingo and Acapulco, there is already talk, even in the open, about these groups and their organized movement. The reports do not vary much: These are men who have nothing to do with the communities and who move discreetly around Guerrero State. When asked about the issue, Guerrero Governor Ruben Figueroa Alcocer retorts: "They are gang members...."

In mid-May, the National Defense Secretariat (Sedena) deployed more than 6,000 agents in the hills and mountains of Guerrero. According to Sedena, the ongoing program to fight drug trafficking prompted the deployment. However, the deployment to Filo Mayor and the road between El Paraiso and El Eden in the Atoyac hills had another mission: to uncover the final destination of 10,000 smuggled combat weapons (presumably AK-47 rifles, known as *goat horns*).

Although the military agents have already returned to their quarters, the residents of El Paraiso say they pitch camps along the berms of the roads; "they move around at night, and every two weeks, they come to town to get provisions."

The Mountain: A Social Leftover

On the mountain, the word is being spread by the whims of the wind. Those Indians who claim they already belong to the ELS argue that "their faces will no longer be seen" after 21 August, "because hatred has grown so much, we will dally no longer...."

On one of the many cold mornings in which the fog clears languidly, two men wait by a ford on the main road. One of them stands up and says his name is *Rosendo*; he makes his move and introduces his companion *Patricio*. Stoically, he explains his job is to be a liaison to his *brothers* on the mountain.

We start hiking a trail that takes more than six hours before reaching the highest peak; from there, we still

have a two-day walk among the summits from where we can see the volcanic rim, the sea, and some areas of Oaxaca State.

As we follow the passageway through the mountainous area covered with pine, Mixteco and Tlapaneco Indians claim they do not know why the Army has stayed in this region longer than usual. "They do nothing to us.... They say they are looking for poppies... because from the Oaxaca hills, those men come down at night to teach us how to defend ourselves; they want to apprehend them... they had better not provoke us, because there will be a fight."

During the rainy season on the mountain, roads become impassible, communities remain isolated, and large amounts of scarce foodstuffs are lost. In addition, 65 percent of the residents lack potable water, electricity, sewage, and health services. Malnutrition affects more than 60 percent of the population, especially mothers and children, and 30 of every 100 men and women are illiterate.

The Guerrero leeward region historically "has encouraged its own workers to leave," sending them to Sinaloa, Sonora, and the Baja California peninsula, because the UN World Food Program has rated Guerrero soils a "seven on its scale of quality"; in other words, the soil can support a harvest of no more than 300 kg of corn per hectare at the end of the rainy season.

As we move through the hiking trails, Indians start coming out; the presence of their *companeros*, *Rosendo* and *Patricio*, encourages them. They talk about the lack of jobs; for them, the alternatives are as follows: going north, growing poppy plants, or getting ready for 21 August. The lives of peasants and Indians in the mountain are spent amid the "drug trafficking culture" and a lack of and repression by police agents.

Roads leading to the communities are disappearing because of landslides caused by rain. In one of the communities, three elders prefer to talk inside a bar. Straw fibers slide through their fingers as they weave hats. They complain that the price of a hat has not increased within the past five years. Coyotes [individuals who exploit peasants and speculate on the black market] continue to buy them for 50 centavos. One of them says: "We make between five and six hats per day." That is three pesos for a day's work.

They justify the fact that many peasants are growing poppy and marijuana: "Payment for growing, caring for, and harvesting drugs is 25 new pesos per day. It is more than the daily pay in Sinaloa, and much more than the three pesos we receive for our hats...."

In this land where peasants are frequently robbed and food delivery trucks are guarded by two or three armed men, in this land that is avoided by police "out of fear of ambushes," the most literate of those who claim to have joined the armed struggle say they cannot wait 30

years—how long UNICEF predicts it will take for the situation of peasants and Indians to change on the mountain.

"Imagine, companero, if we have to wait that long," *Rosendo* and *Patricio* say, laughing sarcastically.

These strong young men under the age of 30 recall that their elders fought a "silent war" 20 years ago on the mountain. They had a tough time of it. They were peasants, Indians, and teachers accused of being thieves, marijuana growers, or white guards [armed parapolice groups operating in the countryside].

They say: "The same is true today; governments do not change...."

We ask: Do you grow grass? The question annoys them. On the mountain, they wear only a Mixteco overcoat or a makeshift plastic coat over their weather-beaten bodies while wielding a machete.

They answer: We, the inhabitants of the mountain, do not grow grass. Men coming from Oaxaca have taught us about the evils of that. We are on their side, and we want nothing to do with the drug traffickers, because our history will change, because our sixth sun has risen [ha nacido nuestro sexto sol].

At 2,000 meters above sea level, sheltered from the evening rainfall in the warmth of their houses made of guama tree, tiles, and adobe, these Indians, who are organized in self-help groups, claim to have been together for more than six years, to belong to no political party, and to have no ties with drug traffickers. These Indians say they are the heirs of teachers Genaro Vazquez and Lucio Cabanas.

Rosendo, the agricultural engineer who crosses mountains with remarkable skill, assures us that weapons are already in this area: "They are in four-by-four meter houses; they are lined up and ready to be used after 21 August. That is the deadline established by the General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army in the Second Lacandona Jungle Declaration."

In this land, described as "lawless" by its residents, memories of armed movements in the south have not been forgotten. Images of Lucio Cabanas, Genaro Vazquez, Emiliano Zapata, and Subcommander Marcos are in every house, in every classroom. One can see images of Marcos made by the Chamula Indians.

Just as the mountain fog rises to show the Indians heading for their plots, the morning light reveals their faces. As the day breaks, they drink mescal, weave hats, tend crops, and gather their flocks. But in the evening, they move like shadows from community to community, from house to house. They are imperceptible, irrecognizable.

EZLN, Government Agree To Hold 21 Aug Elections in Chiapas

PA3107232194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1101 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Excerpts] San Cristobal de las Casas, 31 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The negotiating parties, including the armed Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN], have agreed that the presidential elections will take place without incident on 21 August in the strife-torn zones of Chiapas State in southern Mexico.

The agreement is "encouraging" for the peace process, Bishop Samuel Ruiz of this diocese said in a communique issued on the progress of the negotiations, in which he served as mediator.

Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez Moreno, and the EZLN participated in the agreement, the bishop announced.

Samuel Ruiz utilized his good offices with the peace commissioner and the EZLN committee.

The agreement has been the "fruit of intense dialogue," the bishop added.

A president, 500 deputies, and 96 of the 128 senators will be elected in the 21 August elections.

Ruiz explained that after the EZLN agreed to allow elections in the strife-torn regions, Governor Lopez Moreno and the peace commissioner began to make contacts to make this possible.

He noted that the extent of this agreement benefits the elections because it shows "that it is possible to continue to build paths that will lead to lasting peace and to reconciliation with dignity, justice, and democracy."

The EZLN emerged on 1 January of this year to demand assistance for the Indians. [passage omitted on background material]

Ruiz appealed to all parties interested in the normal development of the agreements to contribute so the elections can be held in a reliable, secure climate.

He asked "the responsible authorities to offer every guarantee to personnel who will participate in the electoral process so they will not encounter any problems while carrying out their work. [no closing quotation mark as received]

A communique issued by the EZLN General Command confirms its willingness "not to obstruct the upcoming electoral process," adding that "it is demonstrating its will for peace."

It explained that the method for installing the ballot boxes in the conflict areas "has been agreed upon by state, federal, and electoral authorities, members of the mediation commission, and the peace commissioner."

In a document signed by Subcommander Marcos, the EZLN announced the position that its delegates will take to the Democratic National Convention (CND) to be held from 6 to 9 August in Chiapas. The EZLN delegates' position is essentially to propose a constituent congress and a transitional government.

The CND "must declare itself in favor of a program for struggle and for the convention," which will include in its pre-electoral aspect an appeal to exercise the right to vote and to ensure the free and democratic exercise of that right, it added.

In the post-electoral aspect, it proposes calling a civil and peaceful mobilization to defend the people's will.

"That is our position, our thinking, which we will take to the CND. It is not, however, the only or true position," as other proposals may counter it. "We will act with respect and tolerance," the EZLN stated.

Commerce Secretary on Increase in Exports to U.S. Market

PA3007012694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish
28 Jul 94 p 45

[Report by Victor Hernandez Tamayo]

[Text] Atlangatepec, Tlax. 27 Jul—Jaime Serra Puche, head of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat (SECOFI), has said here Mexican exports, as they enter the U.S. market, "are increasing three times as fast as those of the rest of the world's countries" thanks to NAFTA.

Puche has said that while Mexican exports increased by 27 percent during the January-May 1994 period, compared to those of the same period in 1993, exports from the rest of the countries in the world barely increased by 9 percent, "meaning NAFTA is yielding its first results. We will create more jobs, and the country will continue to grow as we export more," Serra Puche added while attending, along with the presidential delegation, the event at which 2,370 checks were delivered in support of PROCAMPO [Program of Direct Support to the Countryside].

The SECOFI chief said before Governor Jose Antonio Alvarez Lima there are two current methods to measure the results of NAFTA: first, the manner by which exports are increasing, and second, the manner by which the country is attracting domestic and foreign investments.

In the first method, he said: "Manufactured exports, which are the bulk of our sales to world markets, grew by 26 percent between January and May 1994, compared to the same period in 1993." He added exports to the United States grew by 27 percent, while exports from other countries grew by 9 percent.

Concerning foreign investment, the finance secretary said that last year "we broke the all-time record by

attracting foreign capitals to complement domestic capitals." He also said that approximately \$15.6 billion were invested in 1993 and that investments grew by 33 percent from January to March 1994, compared to the same period in 1993, "meaning the two variables, namely exports and foreign investments, are growing satisfactorily and are contributing to the creation of jobs and the increase in the Mexican standard of living," he said.

Concerning other trade agreements, the government official said the agreements signed with Costa Rica, Colombia, and Venezuela will become effective 1 January 1995, adding Mexico and Bolivia will probably reach a final agreement within the next few weeks.

During this meeting held at the Municipal Auditorium, Arturo Sanchez Jimenez, a SARH [Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Secretariat] delegate, reported approximately 50,000 corn, wheat, and bean growers, who harvest 190,000 hectares, will benefit in Tlaxcala from the direct support program, which is estimated at 67.2 million new pesos, for the 1994 spring-summer season.

It was reported that the program will end the second week of July and will benefit 303 communities of Tlaxcala State, where 352 nonvoting members, appointed by the peasants themselves, of the social comptroller's office [contraloria social] are participating in the program.

'Harsher Penalties' for Smuggling Planned

PA2707154594 Mexico City XEW Television Network
in Spanish 0430 GMT 22 Jul 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat has announced harsher penalties for those involved in contraband. Beginning Friday, contraband, the entry of forbidden merchandise into the country, and money laundering will be considered serious crimes. Smugglers who dodge duty payments of 100,000 new pesos or more will not be entitled to go free on bail, such as has been the case until now. The same applies when compensatory quotas that exceed 150,000 new pesos are not paid.

The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat announces that a decree has been issued that reforms and adds to the various penal codes, the arms and explosives law, and the federal fiscal code. The reforms will be published on Friday in the OFFICIAL FEDERAL GAZETTE and will harshly punish people who cause serious harm to the Federal Treasury, Mexican enterprises, and society as a whole.

The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat announced in a bulletin that contraband merchandise is usually smuggled into the country by organized networks that place the national production plant at risk. The new legal text approved by Congress, which modifies Section 1 of

Article 20, seeks to attack these organized networks which harm the economy, public health, and national security.

Zedillo Presents Rural Development Program

PA3107032994 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish
29 Jul 94 p 1-10

[Report by Ricardo Aleman Aleman]

[Text] Cuernavaca, Morelos, 28 Jul—Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De Leon has made public his Program for Integral Rural Development. "I am not promising the impossible, not even the easy parts. I will not make careless promises that I cannot keep. I am offering support that has a new dimension. It is up to the producers of the countryside to forge their fate of progress," said Zedillo before peasants, producers, and politicians.

Adhering to his 10-point format, the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] presidential candidate proposed an institutional reform of the agrarian sector, recommended upgrading PROCAMPO [Program of Direct Support to the Countryside] to the constitutional level, and promised to give priority to investments in agricultural infrastructure and to end the issuance of land titles by the year 2000. He also promised to privatize the federal government's collection and warehouse infrastructure.

Zedillo stated: We must recognize "that institutions have failed to meet the demands of peasants and rural producers. There were even occasions when the officials' interests were put above the producers' interests."

As for expired portfolios, the PRI presidential candidate underscored that the true solution to this problem lies in the increase in profitability rates of agricultural activities and that the 10-point program is "a sound response."

In an event held in the Morelos State capital because of its agrarian roots—and during which Zapata's name was mentioned twice: "Today more than ever, Zapata's fight is our fight"—Zedillo explained that his institutional reform intends to combat bureaucracy and to eliminate duplicate positions, as well as to make sure Mexican peasants are treated fairly.

He also said that public officials "must not forget they are here to help everyone and that they are nobody's boss. Carelessness and arrogance have no place here, and no one is above those who work the land."

His reform reportedly would include all institutions dealing with the rural sector, would delegate functions to state and municipal governments, and would allow quick, effective, and sound responses to each region's particular situation.

The institutional reform will be unsuccessful unless it is accompanied by a true federalism, asserted the PRI candidate, adding: "Proposing a mere reform to the participatory fiscal system is not enough. We need to

reorganize the whole system of accounting for revenues and expenditures and of delegating responsibilities to allow the new federalism to truly espouse the integral rural development that people in the country are demanding."

Speaking to peasant leaders and politicians at the Teopanzolco municipal auditorium, Zedillo supported "the historical alliance between men and women in rural areas and our party." He then proceeded to enumerate the 10 points in his proposal for the integrated development of rural areas.

Point one refers to support for producers. "The policy for the rural area must be realistic, aboveboard, and unbureaucratic. It is no secret that most industrialized countries subsidize their farmers. Our agricultural policy in the coming years must make sure that our competitors' subsidy practices do not make our agriculture unfeasible. That is why our policy must be to provide direct support to guarantee that resources are not squandered."

Faced with this situation, Zedillo proposed "to consolidate PROCAMPO, proposing in Congress a mechanism that will fully guarantee its existence for the next 15 years."

In point two, the PRI candidate referred to infrastructure investments to increase productivity. He said strengthening infrastructure "will ease access to credit, further the use of modern materials, and permanently increase productivity." For this reason, "infrastructure in the rural areas will be given top priority in the public investment program of the government over which I intend to preside," Zedillo stated.

Point three refers to a new phase in the agrarian reform program. He admitted there is no more land to distribute and warned: "We will not act with demagoguery, nor will we make false promises, because if we do it today, it will cause suffering, bitterness, and even violence tomorrow." He proposed to end the delay with a new agrarian reform phase. "A realistic and feasible objective would be to finish the certification campaign before the year 2000. This campaign is the biggest in our history and is unprecedented in the world."

On point four, Zedillo announced the promotion of new technologies for the rural area; that is, technological modernization with the promotion of existing investigation centers and the establishment of new centers with a novel motivation system.

The rural sector's "integrated training" is point five, and according to the presidential candidate, it "must go beyond farming and forestry activities to trigger a new presence in the industrial, commercial, and service sectors, with strong participation from private and social institutions."

Point six of Zedillo's proposal addresses the problem of overdue loans. He admits that this is "a serious problem" and says the reason producers do not pay is not

because they don't want to but because they don't have enough resources. He says that the solution "is to increase the profitability of agricultural activities" and asserted that his 10-point program "is an in-depth solution to the overdue loan problem."

Point seven addresses the need to make headway in marketing activities. The presidential candidate said it is indispensable "to disengage the stocking and storing infrastructure currently in the hands of the federal government. The producers' direct participation will allow for better prices and a strengthening of their negotiating ability with buyers."

Point eight refers to the preservation and care of the environment, and point nine, mentioned previously, proposes institutional reform. Point 10 in Zedillo's proposal talks about fighting extreme poverty and admits that poverty is predominant in rural Mexico.

Finance Secretary Reviews Economic Strategy

PA3107134394

[Editorial Report] Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish at 0430 GMT on 29 July, as part of its regularly scheduled "Facing the Nation" program, broadcasts a live 60-minute interview with Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella by program host Javier Alatorre and EL ECONOMISTA Editor Luis Enrique Mercado at the Television Azteca studios in Mexico City.

The interview begins with Alatorre asking Aspe whether he feels conditions exist to create a Mexico that is more just and prosperous. Aspe replies: "I think the foundations have been laid to create longer lasting and more equitable growth. I believe that these past years have shown that, if inflation is high and goes unchecked, it is not possible—in fact, it is absolutely impossible—to make any progress whatsoever in terms of sustained growth, let alone to bolster social equality. Eradicating inflation is a basic condition for making progress in growth and justice."

Expanding on the subject, the secretary reviews the efforts of the current administration: "One major aspect of this was to have a prudent monetary policy that would contribute to growth while preventing unchecked inflation. To do this, we needed to have in the future, in addition to balanced public finances, an autonomous central bank. Moreover, we needed to have markets for goods and jobs that were much more competitive. This is why commercial aperture was so important."

Mercado tells Aspe that people realize inflation is lower than it was six years ago and that public finances are healthy. However, he adds, they also feel their standard of living has not improved. In response, Aspe says that to improve the people's standard of living the government must "persevere in its policy of macroeconomic stability" in the face of great challenges that threaten to disrupt this stability. He credits President Carlos Salinas

de Gortari with persevering in this matter. He says the people do not feel the impact of these policies, because wages "started from a very low base." After noting that wages have improved, he admits: "We not yet reached the levels of real income we had approximately 14 years ago."

Aspe adds: "We are on the right track, definitely. Real wages are increasing, definitely. Much remains to be done, however."

When Alatorre asks Aspe when the jobs the country needs will be generated, the official says that after NAFTA was ratified, the country experienced a 4 percent recovery between December 1993 and March 1994. He also notes that the murder of Donaldo Colosio, presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], had a tremendous impact on the economy, adding, "in fact, it forced us to face this shock with a fiscal and monetary control policy and to redouble our work in terms of interest rates."

In the wake of the Colosio assassination, Aspe goes on to say, the economy has not been growing at the pace it experienced between December and February.

Aspe adds: "I sincerely believe conditions exist for the economy to grow, so much so that despite events as detrimental as the ones I have just mentioned, the economy is still growing. For instance, the economy showed a recovery of approximately 2 percent in industrial production during the first four months of this year."

Mercado notes that high interest rates are a "big headache" for the nation's businessmen, and he asks Aspe to predict what is in store for the future. Aspe admits interest rates went from 10 to 19 percent after the PRI presidential candidate was assassinated. In his opinion, the government has to do two things at the macroeconomic level to have "more reasonable" interest rates. The first, according to Aspe, is to have no deficit in public finances, adding, "this is what the government has done." The second thing is for the government to persevere in its macroeconomic policies. If the government changes its policy midcourse, the people will feel the government lacks strength and leadership, and this would lead to uncertainty.

Aspe adds that other concrete steps can be taken: "I would like to cite a very important and specific example. Barely three years ago, our banking system was totally and completely run by the state. The Mexican state was the sole owner of the country's commercial banks. Fortunately, the Constitution and the laws were amended. We were able to privatize our 18 banks at an average of one bank every three weeks. In 54 weeks, we privatized all of the banks. We said this is the first phase of the reform. The second phase was greater competition—that is, to have more banks. Since the time we privatized the last bank, 17 more banks have been established. At one time, we had 18 banks completely run by the state. Now

we have 35 completely private banks. Now we say: This is fine; it increases competition, but why not move fully into the third phase and encourage greater competition?"

Aspe continues: "This is why within the NAFTA framework we authorized, beginning on 1 January, the arrival of foreign banks. We are receiving requests until the last day of July, and within weeks we will grant new permits to foreign banks."

The interview continues with Mercado pressing Aspe on when Mexicans can expect a drop in interest rates. In turn, Aspe replies, "Interest rates will begin to drop in the second half of the year."

Alatorre turns the discussion to the government's steps to punish tax evaders, noting that some of Aspe's critics regard these measures as "fiscal terrorism." Aspe responds by noting that between 1917 and 1988, the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat started legal proceedings in only two cases of tax evasion. In the past five years, however, the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat has filed charges in connection with 511 cases of tax evasion. Aspe recalls that President Salinas instructed his secretariat to lower tax rates and the number of taxes levied and, at the same time, raise the number of taxpayers and the taxable base. Aspe notes that the value-added tax [VAT] is now 10 percent, as opposed to ranging between 20 and 15 percent five years ago. At one time, companies had to pay an income tax of 42 percent, while now they pay 34 percent.

Aspe says: "At one time we had 18 federal taxes, and now we have less than half that number. What is happening? Are there fewer kinds of taxes? Yes. Are tax rates much lower? Yes. We had to increase the taxable base, and one of the best ways to do this—and I strongly defend the secretariat's role in this—is to make those who fail to pay taxes face punishment for their wrongdoings." In Aspe's view it is important to do this; otherwise, the VAT would again move toward the 20 percent level and a smaller number of people would be carrying the tax burden.

Alatorre asks Aspe if more state-run enterprises will be sold, and the finance secretary replies that this process has ended for the current administration. Replying to Alatorre's question on whether the sale of state-run enterprises yielded profits or losses for the state, Aspe notes that in some cases the prices obtained were higher than planned and lower in others. He adds: "The odd thing is that critics said the problem was that the price at

which we sold them was too high. That may be, but the prices were set at a public auction, so they were market prices."

To conclude the interview, Alatorre asks Aspe to assess his term in office. The secretary states it has been very satisfying to work with top men and women "who believed in their countries and were willing to take great risks, because these policies were not easy." Aspe concludes: "One has to maintain principles and be firm, but one must also be alert to correct mistakes whenever one feels mistakes have been made. I feel this is the tremendous satisfaction one feels as a public servant. It is very personal. I believe that the legacy President Salinas is leaving behind comprises a foundation for growth without inflation."

Electoral Institute Validates Electoral Registry

*PA3007032394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1952 GMT 29 Jul 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) declared valid and definite today the Electoral Registry, which includes the 45.7 million voters for the 21 August general elections.

The top electoral body stated that the documents and studies which were used as a basis for reaching this agreement and which are published today in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE will be available to Mexican citizens and interested organizations for their consultation and analysis.

The IFE explained the decree is the result of the reform promoted by the federal government, political parties, and the people for establishing an overall juridical and technical system and creating trustworthy and reliable electoral instruments.

Within the framework of reforms, it was decided to prepare a new list of citizens, update and purge it, issue a voter's photo identification card, and have the political parties and people do a general review the lists of names.

The IFE recalled that the executive bodies of the IFE carried out the program "Overall Purge of the Electoral Registry and the New Voter's Photo Identification Card" from May 1992 to July 1994 and that it was determined, following an external audit, the registry was valid.

on next 21 August, 45.7 million Mexicans registered on the Electoral Registry will go to the polls to elect a president, 500 deputies, and 96 out of 128 senators.

El Salvador**Commission Report: Death Squads Decentralized**

PA2907174594 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Jul 94

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Joint Commission, which was appointed by the United Nations and the government to investigate politically motivated operations of illegal armed groups, today delivered its final report to President Armando Calderon Sol and the director of ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador], who will send it to the UN secretary general.

The extensive document indicates soldiers and agents discharged from the Armed Forces and from the National Police have taken part in organized crime, as well as in some politically motivated violence. Here is Peruvian Diego Garcia-Sayan, a member of ONUSAL.

[Garcia-Sayan] "This new information will be very useful for the work of public security and investigative agencies under your administration, Mr. President."

With the delivery of the final report, the Joint Commission concluded its eight-month investigation into the existence of illegally armed groups with political motivations. The document also was delivered to ONUSAL Director Enrique Ter Horst, who will send it to the UN secretary general.

According to the commission, there is sufficient evidence to conclude that individuals and groups that employ violence as a means to obtain political results continue to operate in the nation. Nevertheless, the report indicates that the so-called death squads that operated in the country in the past decade have undergone an evolution and now comprise more decentralized groups devoted to organized crime. These groups, however, still have the capacity to conduct criminal actions that are politically motivated.

[Garcia-Sayan] "It has been concluded that those minorities who still want to resort to violence as a means of resolving political differences are part of more complex structures of organized crime."

The Joint Commission confirmed there is no state policy that is dedicated to politically motivated violence. This does not mean, however, that government agents do not participate in criminal actions.

[Garcia-Sayan] "In some of these incidents we can see the participation of government agents, including Armed Forces and National Police members who have been discharged and other people who hold public office at the judicial, municipal, and ultimately political levels."

The document that was made public does not list names, but the copies delivered to the authorities have a special

annex that does mention names in a confidential manner. Although the exact number of people listed was not disclosed, it was reported that approximately 25 cases were investigated.

Outgoing Prosecutor General Romero Melara Granillo also received a copy of the report in which it was recommended that he, along with the PNC [National Civilian Police], continue investigations into the actions of illegal armed groups.

[Melara Granillo] "We will make use of all of the legal tools required to comply with the recommendations presented in this report."

The creation of a new branch of the PNC is also recommended.

[Mauricio Molina Fonseca, member of the Joint Commission, in progress] "...the PNC with a new unit, the goal of which will be the permanent investigation of any politically motivated attempt on an individual's life."

Also, the commission expressed its concern over indications that Armed Forces members were conducting intelligence work that may violate the Constitution. There is a risk that intelligence findings be used by individuals or groups to advance their own political interests. The three Joint Commission members dedicated the report in memory of their colleague Dr. Jose Leandro Cheverria, who died of natural causes during the drafting of the report.

Although the Joint Commission has concluded its mission in this country, the death-squad chapter is still not closed. Authorities must continue investigating and applying justice to those who have been involved in such activities. This responsibility now falls on the Attorney General's Office and on the PNC.

Calderon Views Report

PA2907235394 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Jul 94

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Armando Calderon Sol has said he will comply with the recommendations of the Joint Commission and will turn over to justice, before investigation, anyone found to be involved in criminal actions. He has asked for trust in the state's public security apparatus.

Based on investigations, the Joint Commission has collected information on specific cases and instances that indicates the participation of private citizens, independent from the state, in criminal actions. Among these citizens are discharged members of the Armed Forces and the National Police [PN]. The data collected does not indicate, however, clear evidence warranting public disclosure of the identification of those responsible; nevertheless, the president of the Republic has made a

commitment to investigate and turn over to justice those state agents who are involved.

[Calderon] "We have to clarify the truth in El Salvador, and anyone who breaks the law must be turned over to the courts, to Salvadoran justice. This process is the only way we can change our country and make El Salvador a safe nation."

The prosecutor general will be tasked with, in conjunction with the National Civilian Police, directing the permanent investigations of the issue and will also purge or add to, through investigations, the list of names compiled. According to the president, the present security authorities and those of the Attorney General's Office are guarantee enough the information will not be manipulated or filed in a back drawer:

[Calderon] "Why will there be no trust? We have to.... [pauses] We see everyday our institutions are being strengthened. We Salvadorans have the enormous challenge of believing in our institutions."

Calderon has said he is satisfied with the election of the new Supreme Court magistrates, because they will initiate a series of judicial reforms that will allow an end to impunity and punishment to the fullest extent of the law for those involved with illegal, armed groups that have political designs, as well as those involved with organized crime.

Meanwhile, political sectors were quick to react to the Joint Commission report. One aspect of the report that caught everyone's eye is the possible ties of Armed Forces and PN members to illegal, armed groups and organized crime. Defense Minister Colonel Humberto Corado Figueroa has said the Armed Forces must make certain observations in order to validate the report.

The Joint Commission report established today certain ties of Armed Forces and PN members to organized crime and illegal groups. Defense Minister Corado, who appeared before the Legislative Assembly on 28 July to report on his administration, received this assertion with caution. He also has commented on the validity of the report:

[Corado, in progress] "....and its conclusions contribute to achieve harmony in the nation, then we will certainly give it prominence; nevertheless, if we determine its conclusions are not valid and have no bases, we will have to ignore it."

Francisco Jovel, FNLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] deputy and a leader of the PRTC [Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers], a left-wing group, was a victim of attacks during the end of last year and the beginning of this year. These attacks still have not been clarified:

[Jovel] "This is not disclosing anything new. What is important is the Joint Commission's recommendation of

what mechanism or what institution will be in charge of the procedure to continue the investigations."

The Joint Commission report also disclosed Army participation in investigative duties, which were transferred to the National Civilian Police. Interior Minister Roberto Angulo has said that the report will be considered, in any event, in its total scope and that justice will be applied to whomever is found guilty:

[Angulo] "Our role is not to seek out violence or organized crime. We investigate, and whoever is found to be guilty, whether they represent a sector, will be punished."

It is now the turn of the Prosecutor's Office and the government to continue the investigations to find the illegal, armed groups the roots of which, the report states, are in the death squads.

Defense Minister: Report 'Contradictory'

PA3107035894 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister General Humberto Corado said yesterday: "I do not agree with LA PRENSA GRAFICA's headline. If they dare say that, they should give names, and we will proceed through legal channels." Gen. Corado described as "propagandistic manipulation" the article published by that morning newspaper. LA PRENSA GRAFICA cites the "historical background" provided in the report issued by the Joint Commission as current facts when indeed these incidents occurred before the period covered by the Joint Commission's investigation.

"Joint Commission" is the name given to the commission created on 8 December 1993 to investigate political crimes that occurred after the signing of the peace accords in January 1992. It was later proven that the facts which prompted the creation of the Joint Commission were eminently criminal, as was confirmed to EL DIARIO DE HOY by the Prosecutor General's Office.

In its introduction, and without providing evidence, the document states that "during the period before the peace agreements, powerful economic and political sectors were involved in these violent methods."

Overstepping its authority, the same report adds that "death squads" operated within the former security corps and in several sections of the Army.

Gen. Corado described the document as "confusing" and "contradictory" because "it makes statements that it cannot prove."

As an example, Gen. Corado said that according to the report, the state has not been able to investigate these incidents. "However, they contradict themselves when they add in the same document that they do not have enough evidence to support and categorically affirm this," Corado added.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Gen. Corado denied there are illegal armed groups within the Army. "As far as the Army is concerned, there are no illegal armed groups within this institution," Corado added.

"The Armed Forces is perhaps the institution that has helped the Joint Commission the most. Ask them. We have given the group all our support because we have nothing to hide," the defense minister said.

The defense minister added that there are indications that active duty soldiers and National Police members have participated in recent crimes, and he recommends that the authorities investigate these incidents and bring the guilty parties to justice.

Despite their baseless statements, the Joint Commission has publicly admitted that its report is based on "circumstantial evidence" and "assumptions," not on concrete facts or evidence.

Apocryphal Lists

The assertions of Joint Commission members regarding the existence of a confidential list of people implicated in illegal armed groups has led to the spread of rumors and apocryphal lists of soldiers and businessmen by various sources.

Sources who have had access to the report say it is not soldiers and businessmen who are mentioned but irrelevant individuals.

Businessman Orlando de Sola complains that his name appears on the apocryphal lists that have been released in the wake of the doubts created by the Joint Commission. He says this is an attempt to harm him and other people, including President Armando Calderon Sol himself.

"President Calderon's name appears on the defamatory lists. He must be very careful about how he handles the report," De Sola adds. The businessman points out that the report is based on information from diplomats who identify with the former guerrillas, such as former Ambassador Robert White.

De Sola says "the report and the list have been designed to cover up the impunity of the former guerrillas. It seeks impunity for the communists while we the victims remain marked." "I trust that the president and government officials will do what they ought to do with this report: Throw it in the garbage," he stated.

Defense Ministry Probes FMLN Links to EZLN

PA2907195894 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 26 Jul 94 p 3

[Excerpts] According to news reports from Mexico City, FBI and DEA personnel who investigated the spread of subversion in southern Mexico have confirmed that FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] members are training rebels in Chiapas.

EL UNIVERSAL GRAFICO reports that the FBI and DEA have confirmed that "guerrillas identified with the Salvadoran FMLN are working in the Chiapas area, training and organizing the terrorists in the so-called Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] and groups in other Mexican states, especially in Oaxaca and Guerrero. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Defense Ministry Confirms Information

A Salvadoran Defense Ministry spokesman told EL DIARIO DE HOY yesterday that there are clear indications of links between the FMLN and the Zapatists. The military spokesman added that Army intelligence is investigating the ties between the two groups, which includes the supply of weapons and the presence of "instructors."

He added, however, "Investigations conducted so far only show strong inferences of such ties. However, the United States has greater resources to carry out the investigations and, therefore, the DEA and FBI assertions deserve full credibility. They cannot be doubted." The spokesman indicated that the government will ask the U.S. agencies to provide the information obtained in this respect.

Other military sources add that they are investigating the way in which FMLN members travel to Chiapas and, as is usual in such cases, they go through Managua.

Regarding the AK-47 rifles found in the possession of the Zapatists in Chiapas, the same sources have reported that the weapons could have been supplied from Nicaragua or sent directly from El Salvador, where there are large quantities of weapons in clandestine caches. The National Police and National Civilian Police periodically discover such clandestine caches.

The FMLN's Path to Mexico

The report in EL UNIVERSAL GRAFICO adds that FMLN "instructors" enter Mexico illegally at several ungarded points along the southern border.

Those points, according to the newspaper, can be found along the entire border between Mexico and Guatemala. These points are not only used to pass people and weapons but also regularly serve drug trafficking and contraband purposes.

"The investigators who for obvious reasons asked not to be identified have asserted that FMLN guerrillas are also working as regular militia [milicia regular] members in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama," the Mexican newspaper reports. [passage omitted]

On another issue, the newspaper adds, "bunker-type" tunnels have been found in EZLN-controlled territory. The tunnels are similar to ones used during the Vietnam war to protect guerrillas from air raids and to store war materiel and ammunition. The tunnels also are used as underground roads. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Defense Minister Reaffirms Suspension of Draft

PA3007174894 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO
in Spanish 28 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Carlos Castanaza and Juan Revolorio]

[Text] National Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez has met with at least 50 percent of the Army's officers to inform them of progress in the peace negotiations and to reiterate the Army High Command's position not to draft any more involuntary recruits until new legislation is passed on this issue.

Following President Ramiro De Leon's speech at the 30 June Armed Forces Day celebration in which the president gave the order to stop involuntary conscription, Gen. Enriquez said he gave the order to the Chiefs of Staff, who in turn ordered the different commanders to stop forced conscription.

Regarding events in Military Zone No. 302, the headquarters of which is in Chimaltenango—where, according to the human rights ombudsman, officers illegally recruited personnel over the weekend—Gen. Enriquez said this was "a misunderstanding." He added that he even admonished the commander responsible for the zone, Colonel Marco Vinicio Gomez, who told him it had been a mistake by military personnel who were asked to find 50 volunteers for the reserves.

Enriquez said that upon realizing there was discontent the problem was immediately corrected. The defense minister stressed that in the future the president's orders would be carried out and penalties would be imposed, but he said he could not guarantee that isolated incidents would not occur. He said he did not believe any punishment was necessary in connection with the Chimaltenango incident.

Enriquez also said nine volunteers for military service had tried to enroll in the Mariscal Zavala Military Brigade but were turned down because six of them, from Baja Verapaz, were under age. He also said they were not permitted to enter the Army because it was feared they had been told that as soon as they were recruited they were to file complaints with the Human Rights Commission about alleged recruitment violations.

Enriquez also said he will meet with Monica Pinto, a member of the Presidential Commission for the Coordination of Human Rights Affairs, adding that he has some "pleasant surprises" for her in terms of the reality of the national situation, because nothing being done in this area is fictional.

After linking the increase in violence to Pinto's arrival, Gen. Enriquez said the Army has drawn up a plan to be implemented throughout the month of August. The plan will encompass the entire city in support of civilian security. This plan is also designed to maintain security

for the 14 August elections, at which time all military passes will be suspended to avoid any incidents. "and, if the Supreme Electoral Tribunal needs it, Military Police patrols will be implemented in accordance with Phases 1, 2, and 3 of the plan," Enriquez said.

Honduras

Haitian Refugees To Be Housed on Swan Islands

PA3007235094 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1438
GMT 30 Jul 94

[By German Reyes]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 29 Jul [date as received] (ACAN-EFE)—The Swan islands, located off the Honduran Caribbean coast and used by the United States in the past for military operations in Cuba and Nicaragua, will become a camp for 5,000 Haitian refugees who will arrive in Honduras in the next few weeks.

The Honduran islands are a wildlife reserve and the location of a U.S. military presence for the control of drug trafficking from South America.

The islands' only inhabitants are Honduran Navy and U.S. Army personnel who are there to fight drug trafficking using radar equipment installed by the United States. [passage omitted]

Elias Romero, executive director of the Association of Honduran Environmental, Agricultural, and Forestry Journalists, told ACAN-EFE that these three little islands are like "a hidden paradise with great potential for ecological tourism."

Romero said that "unfortunately, the presence of Haitian refugees will cause environmental problems in this virgin area." About 5,000 Haitians who fled their country following the problems that arose after President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in September 1991 will remain on these islands for six months.

The UNHCR will be responsible for the care of the Haitian refugees. The UNHCR is now waiting for Honduras to ask it to build the camp in this area, which will literally be "conquered" by the Haitians.

Nicaragua

Sandinist Deputy Decries Detainment in Miami

PA3007141994 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
29 Jul 94 pp 1, 10

[Article by Jorge Katin]

[Text] Nicaraguan Deputy Leticia Herrera has admitted to BARRICADA: "I saw myself dead. I told myself: This is as far as you go, Leticia Herrera." Herrera was arrested, interrogated, and psychologically tortured for two days by U.S. federal agents who accused her of being on a list of "terrorists."

Leticia Herrera was detained on 24 July at the Miami Airport on her way back from the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) meeting in Venezuela.

The Sandinist deputy yesterday sent a letter to President Violeta Chamorro denouncing what she has described as "a horrible experience that I wish on no one, because it was degrading, humiliating, and outrageous."

Still very nervous, Deputy Herrera recalls that she arrived in Miami at approximately 1100 aboard United Airlines Flight 868. She says that when she reached the immigration counter, where she was to complete the paperwork before boarding a connecting flight to Managua, she was detained by two U.S. agents.

"I was interrogated for approximately one hour. They kept asking me the same things over and over again: had I had problems with the government, had I ever been arrested, and other questions along these same lines," Herrera said. The Sandinist deputy added that she was frightened because no one knew what was happening to her; furthermore, she was denied the right to use the telephone.

The interrogation was continued by a federal agent who identified himself as Oscar Montoto. His questions were more direct. The federal agent asked the deputy: "You know why you were detained, do you not?"

"I suppose it is because I was and am a member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front," Leticia told the two immigration and one federal agents who nodded their heads.

They Cared About Nothing

"While they interrogated me, they emptied my purse and photocopied every single document and card I had on me. Later, they photographed and fingerprinted me," Leticia added.

It was now 1700; in other words, six hours had passed since the detention began. From the very beginning, the agents knew they had detained a high-ranking Nicaraguan official who was protected by international law in light of the rights a diplomatic official has. But they did not care.

Later, agent Montoto told her that he was not to blame for what was happening because her name was on a list of "terrorists" submitted by the "Nicaraguan State Department"—in other words, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry.

According to Montoto, he was told that once she had been detained he was to call 66-2297, a telephone number in Managua, and report on her detention.

BARRICADA called this telephone number and the person who picked up the phone said: "U.S. Consular Section, at your service."

"After 1800, the interrogation centered on my participation in the operation against Chema Castillo's house and my armed struggle against the Somoza regime," Leticia said.

"I tried to remain calm, but inside I was frightened, because I could feel the power of the gendarme of the world acting against me, and they were capable of fabricating a story against me, or making me disappear, and no one would ever know how or where," Leticia said in a broken voice.

According to Herrera, her biggest frustration was feeling powerless—of not being able to use the phone to report on what was happening to her.

Clarify Your Situation With Your Government

That night, agent Montoto photocopied the documents and left. Before leaving he told me: "Clarify your situation with your government, because if it does not take you off this list, you will always have these problems."

"At approximately 2230, I was put in a security van. Two handcuffed men and a woman were already inside the van. We were driven away from the airport, and after an approximately one hour drive, we arrived at a prison, very much like the prisons you see in the movies, with an electrical fence and barbed wire," Deputy Herrera continued.

"I was separated from the other three people, and once again I was photographed and fingerprinted. I objected, but an officer told me it was necessary for the prison files. I confess that at that moment I began to weaken. I began thinking that with the fingerprints and the photographs they could invent whatever story they wanted and make me disappear," the deputy added.

After Herrera was photographed, she was taken to a cell. There were four bunks in the cell, but she was the only one there.

"I did not sleep that night. It made me angry to think that Somoza's guards never captured me, but now, while exercising my rights as a deputy, I was being kidnapped by none other than the United States," Herrera said.

She was released from the cell at 0500 and taken back to the airport in the van. At the airport she was locked inside a restroom.

"They were kind enough to bring me breakfast while I was in the restroom," the now smiling deputy said recalling the incident.

Finally, at 1800, they made her board a Laesa flight. However, her documents were not returned to her until she arrived in Managua.

Delaney Will Not Receive Her

Yesterday, the Sandinist deputy tried to deliver a letter to Thomas Delaney, deputy minister for state affairs of the Presidency Ministry, who had made an appointment with her for 1100. However, he did not see her.

"I am demanding that the Nicaragua Government give me a clear explanation regarding this serious matter. I want to know if it is true that my country's government

has issued a list of people described as 'terrorists' and, if so, whose names are on that list," Leticia Herrera said.

The Sandinist deputy said she will file charges with all parliamentary organizations throughout the world and with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. The National Assembly will surely demand an investigation into this attack on the rights and guarantees of a deputy.

The deputy asks: "If this happened to me, a person with special rights, what can happen to the common citizen?"

Leal Denies Asking U.S. To Detain Deputy

PA3007142594 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
29 Jul 94 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal has denied that the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry asked the U.S. State Department to arrest Deputy Leticia Herrera, as federal agent Oscar Montoto claimed on Saturday in Miami while interrogating Herrera.

"We categorically deny this information. Furthermore, we are sending a letter to the U.S. Government to ask for an explanation to what happened to Deputy Herrera," the foreign minister told BARRICADA.

Leal said that yesterday a letter was sent to Ambassador John Maisto demanding an in-depth investigation.

"We have no knowledge of the existence of a list of people who the United States considers dangerous, and much less a list provided by my government," the foreign minister reiterated. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Group on 'Persecution'

PA0108034194 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
30 Jul 94 pp 1, 10

[Article by Jorge Katin]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Human Rights Center (CENIDH) has described the arrest of Sandinist deputy Leticia Herrera in the Miami International Airport as unwarranted and as "political persecution by the U.S. Government against Sandinism."

Herrera was arrested on 24 July upon her arrival in the United States while in transit from Caracas, Venezuela, where she had attended a meeting of the Latin American Parliament.

The Nicaraguan deputy was interrogated for more than seven consecutive hours, booked, and jailed for one night before being deported to Nicaragua. U.S. federal authorities ignored her official status, protected by international law, which gives her the right to carry a diplomatic passport.

"This is nothing more than a vulgar display of arrogance in violating the human rights of a high-ranking Nicaraguan state official with diplomatic immunity who was carrying her diplomatic passport as proper identification," the CENIDH said.

"The U.S. authorities violated a UN agreement on the protection of dignitaries," specialist Augusto Zamora said.

Zamora said that, while it may be true that a diplomatic passport must be accredited in a specific country, the agreement on protected persons addresses this issue by giving "similar" prerogatives to all persons bearing diplomatic passports.

"Furthermore, these officials violated U.S. laws by denying her the use of a telephone and the presence of a lawyer," Zamora said.

Another lawyer consulted said that "if no charges were filed, and she was later taken from the airport and jailed, the agents must have been aware that under U.S. laws they are guilty of kidnapping a Nicaraguan official."

Augusto Zamora said that any government has the right to decide who can enter its territory, but once that person is admitted, repressive action cannot be taken against him, "much less an illegal arrest."

"This means the United States has not ended its Cold War against Nicaragua," Zamora said.

Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], asked: "What would happen if Mr. Torricelli or another U.S. congressman received the same treatment from Nicaraguan authorities?"

Ortega asked for a government investigation into the incident to determine who is "the high-ranking official who can order U.S. federal agents to arrest Nicaraguan officials."

Independent Liberal Party Deputy Julia Mena reacted with indignation. "This is a violation of human rights and of the rights of an official of the Nicaraguan Government," she said.

Deputy Mena suggested that the National Assembly should demand a government investigation of the facts surrounding this incident. "Despite any ideological differences we deputies may have, this outrage cannot be condoned," Mena said.

Popular Conservative Alliance Party leader Miriam Arguello said a joint session of the National Assembly should discuss this issue and investigate what was said about the Nicaraguan Government.

"Something similar happened to me. Of course, it wasn't as bad as what happened to Leticia," Arguello said. She said that when she was president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly she was in transit in Los Angeles on her way to Taiwan and that U.S. officials ignored her status as a high-ranking Nicaraguan official and tried to take away her documents.

"I had to call the Nicaraguan ambassador in Washington and tell him what was happening" Arguello said.

The U.S. Embassy refused to comment today, claiming that Ambassador John Maisto was not in Nicaragua.

Minister on Effects of Drought; Aid Sought

PA2807194594 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jul 94

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] The drought affecting Nicaragua's northern and western areas has caused damages totalling over 106 million cordobas. Following a cabinet meeting with President Violeta Chamorro, the agriculture and livestock minister said that thus far some 60,000 manzanas of corn and bean crops have been destroyed. As a result of the drought, some 25,000 families have lost their crops, while those of another 20,000 families have experienced a substantial drop in production.

The Nicaraguan Government will ask the international community for assistance on 29 July through a document prepared by an interministerial commission.

Luisa Marengo, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Cooperation Ministry, confirmed on Wednesday that the Nicaraguan Government will formally ask the international community for assistance in dealing with drought-related problems. Marengo indicated that the request will be presented to diplomats during a meeting scheduled at the Foreign Cooperation Ministry.

Nicaragua is facing one of its worst droughts in recent years. This drought has caused serious agricultural losses in the country's northern and western areas. An inter-institutional commission made up of the Social Action, Agriculture, Health, Energy, and Municipal Affairs Ministries, among others, has outlined the government's request for assistance and its requirements.

Panama

Minister-Designate: Arrival of Haitians 'Closed Case'

PA3107181994 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Cristobal Chen and Euclides M. Corro. R.]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister-designate Gabriel Lewis Galindo said yesterday that in his opinion the arrival in Panama of Haitian refugees "is a closed case," because the U.S. decision not to accept more refugees in the United States "has discouraged" those who had sought to escape from Haiti.

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA interviewed Lewis Galindo in Penonome, Coclé Province, site of a ceremony to mark the 13th anniversary of the death of Omar Torrijos Herrera.

The future foreign minister of the government of Ernesto Perez Balladares, which takes office on 1 September,

revealed that three days ago he overflew Haiti and saw no vessels "escaping" from the Caribbean island or in a nearby area the United States established as a refugee camp. [passage omitted]

Three Arrested for Possible Ties to Blast

PA3007011394 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2321 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Panama, 29 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Three Arabs are under arrest for their possible ties to the 19 July midair explosion of an airplane and the deaths of 21 people, 12 of whom were Jewish businessmen.

Judicial sources have told ACAN-EFE two of the arrested are Arabs born in Israel, and the third is a Lebanese who lives in Panama and is married to a Panamanian woman, according to police sources.

The sources have told the media the three foreigners were arrested on 28 July when they tried to cross the border with Costa Rica with a false passport.

One of them was stopped by the Costa Rican authorities when he tried to pass the passport checkpoint and was returned to the Panamanian police which held him under arrest a few hours but then released him.

Afterwards, according to a police source in David, a town near the border with Costa Rica, the three were arrested on 25 July [as received] in this town, where the three were staying.

The police are investigating their possible ties to the bomb that exploded in a small airplane of the Panamanian Company ALAS, because the hypothesis the terrorist action could have been committed by Islamic fundamentalists lingers on.

Idelfonso Suira, chief of the Criminal Investigations Department of the Judicial Technical Police, has confirmed the arrests but has said no charges have been filed against them, although he did say their statements "are contradictory."

Suira, who did not identify the suspects, has said they will remain under arrest until it is established they have no connection with the explosion.

Panamanian authorities, who have confirmed a bomb exploded in the plane, are investigating the possibility of either an Islamic fundamentalist group or the involvement of drug traffickers in this attack.

One of the victims of the plane explosion is an alleged Lebanese citizen who has been identified as Ali Yamal, whose body has not been claimed by any relative.

Another victim was Saul Schwartz, who had been the victim of a strange kidnapping and whom the Italian police were investigating due to his alleged involvement with the laundering of dollars from drug trafficking activities.

FBI agents are participating in the investigations to establish who carried out the attack, and Israel, through the vice president of the Israeli congress, Ovalya Eli, who visited Panama on 27 July, has offered to cooperate.

Investigations Chief on Arrest

PA3007020694 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Report by Luis Alberto Jimenez; from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Three foreigners carrying false documents, who are strongly suspected of having ties to the recent airplane crash in which 21 people were killed, are under arrest at the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police]

According to Idelfonso Suira, chief of the PTJ Criminal Investigations Department, the three individuals were transferred from Paso Canoa, where they were arrested while suspiciously trying to leave the country, carrying false passports.

Suira has said the statements made by the detainees warrant an investigation:

[Begin Suira recording] The manner in which they tried to leave the country and their replies to our questions are suspicious, and, therefore, they are under investigation to determine whether they have any ties to the ALAS airplane accident. [end recording]

Costa Rican officials who participated in the arrest of the suspects have said their names are (Muhammad Taa), (Muhammad Mamud), and (Muhammad Amad Mustafa), all of whom are believed to be Lebanese.

[Begin Suira recording] These individuals were seen recently in the Colon Free Zone, supposedly seeking jobs. [end recording]

According to the PTJ, the detainees have been placed under the disposal of the assistant prosecutor in charge of investigations. Other sources have said, however, they are at the Immigrations Directorate.

Regarding the case of two Asians who were kidnapped recently and found dead afterward, Suira has said 17 Chinese citizens are under arrest.

'Forged Passports' of Suspects Published

PA3007171194

[Editorial Report] Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish on 30 July on page 1 publishes four black-and-white photocopies of pages from what it says are the "forged passports" used by three suspects being held by Panamanian authorities in connection with the 19 July bombing of an ALAS airplane in Colon Province. The photocopies of the passport pages are published under a four-column headline that reads: "Had Forged Passports. Two Israelis and One Lebanese Investigated in Attack. They Tried To Leave Panama Through Paso Canoa."

Beneath the passport photocopies, an EL SIGLO cutline reads: "These are the forged passports of Lebanese Motan Mohamad Taha and Israelis Shawar Midian Fadel and Lohamad Ahmad [names as published], the primary suspects in the attack on ALAS airplane No. 1202, which exploded in midair with 21 people on board. These foreigners were trying to leave the country illegally through Paso Canoa in Chiriqui Province, but Panamanian authorities arrested them."

The first of the four photocopies depicts a "travel document" issued by the State of Israel to Motan Mohammad Taha, whose nationality is listed as Jordanian. According to information on the document, the bearer was born on 15 December 1967 in Burqa, and the document was issued on 18 April 1993. The date of expiration is listed as 17 April 1994. Additional information on the document in Hebrew and English is mostly indistinct. The document also features a darkened photograph and signature of the bearer.

Next to this, EL SIGLO publishes a copy of pages 4 and 5 of a U.S. passport. The section marked "Visas" features three stamps in the blocks marked "Entries/Entrees" and "Departure/Sorties." The first stamp in Hebrew is illegible. Next to this stamp, under the "Departure" rubric, there is a stamp that shows the bearer left Ben Gurion Airport on 24 August 1990. Beneath this stamp, also under "Departure," there is a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service stamp that shows the bearer arrived in Chicago, Illinois, on 25 August 1990. Page 4, which is for penciled-in entries to update current U.S. and overseas addresses and contact information, is blank, thereby giving no indication of the passport's bearer.

The next photocopy shows the first two pages of U.S. passport No. 023586191 issued to a "Midian Fadel Shawar" on 2 July 1977. The bearer's place of birth is listed as the West Bank. The date of issuance is illegible, but the issuing office is listed as the Passport Agency, Chicago. The expiration date is listed as 18 June 1995. This document also features a photograph and a signature of "Median F. Shawar."

The fourth and final photocopy is the back page of an Israeli passport featuring the stamp of Israel's Ministry of the Interior. Under the section entitled "Extensions," the passport is marked extended until 16 April 1995. The extension is signed and dated "03-05-1994."

Further on Suspects; Hebrew Center Fired On

PA3007153894 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 30 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Two Israelis and a Palestinian remain under arrest on suspicion of being linked to the attack that led to the deaths of the 21 occupants of the HP-1202 plane. Also,

the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] is investigating a report of gunfire near the Hebrew Cultural Center in Panama City yesterday.

According to PTJ Operations Director Idelfonso Suira, the PTJ believes the three foreigners could be linked to the attack on the ALAS plane because they had questioned several businessmen a few weeks before the crime took place.

During a news conference, Suira revealed that the two Israelis (presumably Arabs born in Israel) and the Palestinian say they met one another at the Soloy Hotel and became friends. Suira added that the suspects gave "very poor reasons" for visiting the Colon Free Zone, including that they were merchants and that they were looking for jobs.

Other reports indicate that the foreigners were arrested along the Costa Rican-Panamanian border five days ago, when Costa Rican authorities discovered they were traveling on false passports. Initial investigations reveal that one of the foreigners entered Panama 40 days ago; the second one, three weeks ago; and the third, just 10 days ago. The suspects are currently undergoing questioning under orders from Assistant Prosecutor Carlos Augusto Herrera.

In another event, the PTJ operations chief confirmed that "suspicious movements" had been reported near the Hebrew Cultural Center in the Coco del Mar neighborhood yesterday. He added that the center had reportedly come under gunfire. Suira reported that investigations are continuing to verify these reports, adding that Jewish centers in Panama have hired private security guards. He also said the National Police also have assigned personnel to guard these centers.

[In a related 200-word report, Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish, on page 1 of its 30 July edition, adds: "A group of unidentified people strafed, reportedly with machine-gun fire, the installations of the Hebrew Cultural Center in Paitilla early yesterday morning. No casualties or serious damages were reported in the attack." LA PRENSA adds that reporters who visited the site of the attack, which "is thought to be an anti-Semitic action, according to reports from unofficial sources," only found "several policemen guarding the area against possible terrorist action." LA PRENSA adds: "In addition to this incident, anonymous phone calls were received, claiming that bombs had been planted in a building in Paitilla in which several Jewish businessmen live. The building was thoroughly checked, and the threats turned out to be false."]

Meanwhile, Colon Free Zone businessman Jamal Saker clarified that he is not related to Lya Jamal, the alleged "human bomb" who brought down the HP-1202 plane. In a telephone conversation with EL PANAMA AMERICA reporters, Saker said, "neither myself nor my family are being investigated in the attack," which occurred on 19 July.

Although a composite picture of the suicide bomber was distributed to print media and television sources yesterday, authorities still do not have any additional information on the alleged Lebanese bomber Lya Jamal. Investigators also have not yet determined whether the attack was carried out by the drug cartels or if it was an anti-Semitic action.

Further on Gunfire

PA3007193394 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jul 94

[From the "Day to Day" newscast]

[Text] Unidentified people shot at the Hebrew Cultural Center, which is the Jewish center for social activities, at approximately at 0400 on Friday. Unofficial reports indicate that two vehicles sped along Calle Tercera Sur in Coco del Mar, San Francisco, in front of the Hebrew Center. Shots were fired and the vehicles sped away.

Guards from the National Security Co. in the area were only able to see the colors of the vehicles. One was white and the other black, and they believe the vehicles were a Toyota and a Hyundai. None of the bullets hit the building and no one was injured.

In recent days, the Hebrew Center has received several threatening phone calls. Authorities have still not released a report on this incident, but apparently they are investigating it, because they arrived on the scene a few minutes after the attack occurred.

On 19 July, an ALAS plane exploded while traveling from Colon to Panama City, killing 21 people, mostly of Jewish origin.

Envoy-Designate: U.S. Should Compensate for Invasion

PA3007044994 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Jul 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Members of the government of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares believe one of their commitments, once they assume power, must be to negotiate, at diplomatic levels, a compensation for those affected by the 20 December 1989 U.S. invasion. Jorge Illueca, an internationalist and Panamanian ambassador-designate to the United Nations, has said one of the actions the incoming government must perform is to demand the U.S. Government indemnify the victims of the 1989 invasion, which ended General Manuel Antonio Noriega's military government. Illueca has said the United States is obligated to compensate those affected by the military invasion according to international conventions.

[Illueca] "The country that provided the Army for the invasion, in this case the United States, is obligated to

pay compensation, which must be done through diplomatic channels. The countries understand this point, and the United States has compensated those affected by similar actions in the past."

According to Illueca, previous attempts to get the United States to pay compensation have failed, because the requests were made by private citizens, not by the government or through diplomatic channels; this, Illueca reiterated, is what the Perez Balladares government must do.

[Illueca] "This is an action that must be handled by the two governments involved and can be done without affecting the friendly relations between the two countries."

On the same subject, Housing Minister-Designate Francisco Sanchez Cardenas has said one of the points on the new government's agenda is to discuss the invasion and compensation issues.

[Sanchez] "We have decided to schedule this issue in our international policy work plan, which has not been defined as yet. We are willing to present the request, but we must first study this issue in depth."

Ambassador-Designate Illueca has also said Panama must improve its international image and once again play important roles in the region. Illueca has said he will work toward this goal as representative of the Perez Balladares government at the United Nations.

[Illueca] "Panama's congress during the Torrijos era had played a very prominent role in solving regional problems, and we will play that important role once again."

Meanwhile, Minister-Designate Sanchez has said members of the incoming government will study a request this weekend made by Solidarity Party President Samuel Lewis Galindo, who has asked that Mayor-Elect Mayin Correa be pardoned. The Electoral Tribunal has ruled Correa was guilty of electoral crimes.

[Sanchez] "We may discuss this matter, this issue."

[Unidentified reporter] "Any possibilities?"

[Sanchez] "There are always possibilities. Dr. Ernesto Perez Balladares and the Democratic Revolutionary Party have been proving to the country we want rapprochement and unity among the Panamanian people. Anything is possible viewed from this angle."

Argentina**Menem To Request Permission To Send Troops to Haiti**

PA3007232894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Jul (EFE)—The Argentine Government will request Congress' permission to have combat troops participate with U.S., Canadian, and French forces in an armed intervention in Haiti.

If Argentine President Carlos Menem receives Congress' approval, Argentina will be the only country in the region to join the United States in the intervention.

On 1 August the executive branch will send Congress a request to allow the deployment of 600 troops as soon as the UN Security Council approves military action in that country. [passage omitted]

'Several' Israeli Security Officers Said Killed in AMIA Bombing

NC2907190694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The Beirut newspaper AL-SAFIR has cited Argentine sources as saying that several Zionist security officers were killed in the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] building in Buenos Aires.

The paper reported that those officers were members of a drug- and gun-trafficking gang in Latin America and that they had gone to Argentina to recruit some mercenaries for the Zionist intelligence apparatus, Mosad.

AMIA Bomb Explosives 'Manufactured Locally'

PY2907192094 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 28 Jul 94 p 17

[Article by Gustavo Carabajal]

[Text] A very reliable source linked to the investigation into the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association] bombing has said: "What diplomatic bag are you talking about? The explosives used in the AMIA attack were manufactured locally, and anyone with some knowledge of the subject could have made them. It is very difficult, therefore, to control or prevent an attack that uses this type of materiel." He thus replied to a question on the possibility that the materiel used to manufacture the bomb entered Argentina under diplomatic immunity.

The source told LA NACION that the investigation is now directed at a Middle Eastern embassy, specifically at a former attache who possibly has experience in commando operations, who is a Hizballah militant, and who left the country 48 hours before the attack.

A van loaded with more than 100 kg of ammonal exploded at exactly 0953 [1253 GMT] on 18 July on the

sidewalk at 633 Pasteur Street and the shock wave affected, to a greater or lesser degree, buildings within a 400-meter radius of the AMIA building.

At the time of the explosion there were five to seven vehicles parked along the block, including a Renault 18 patrol car with its usual complement of officers from the 7th Precinct.

The leads that the investigators have obtained so far, which are based on the statements of several witnesses and which could possibly help reconstruct the various stages of the incident, indicate that the car bomb—a white and short-wheelbased Renault Traffic van mounted the sidewalk—apparently where a Renault 20 car belonging to an electrician had been parked, and smashed into the front of the AMIA building.

It has yet to be established if the van driver died in the explosion, as it was first thought, or if he left in another vehicle and detonated the bomb from a distance.

At the time of the explosion the building at 633 Pasteur Street—which houses the AMIA, the DAIA [Delegation of Argentine-Jewish Associations], and the Argentine Zionist Organizations—had three guards from a private security company in addition to the Federal Police patrol car.

Another reliable source indicated that several bricklayers had been working at the building for the past 90 days carrying out reform tasks. He stressed that the Israeli Army rescue group which departed on 26 July not only removed debris, "it also removed papers—many bags of papers—or maybe documentation."

A commission that investigates Nazis in Argentina periodically met at a building on Tucuman Street, close to the AMIA building.

The same source indicated that the attack was carried out in several stages: Intelligence, checking the objective, preparations for the attack and, finally, the attack.

The terrorists presumably worked on the task for nearly 4 months and it is believed to have been planned by a Hizballah leader who is closely linked to the embassy of a Middle East country.

Members of the Federal Police and the SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] are carrying out the investigation with the cooperation of the FBI, Mosad, and Spanish and German Police.

The investigators began to gather clues just after the bomb exploded. First they cordoned off the area and had to persuade suffering relatives to leave the area.

Although it may seem too preposterous to be true, the fact that the attack against the AMIA was carried out with a homemade device is now a tragic reality.

A local demolition expert told us that ammonal is an explosive that was discovered in the Brazilian port of Santos in 1955, when a vessel, at anchor for repairs, blew up.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

The insurance company investigated the incident and determined that the vessel had not been loaded with explosives or anything similar, but with a fertilizer: Ammonium nitrate. When it came into contact with fuel from a leak, it blew up.

Eight years later, based on the data collected during this incident, a product was manufactured on the basis of that combination of elements. Thus ammonal, or ANFO [Ammonium Nitrate—fuel oil blasting agent] as it is known commercially, came on the scene. More than 200 kg of this explosive was used in the attack against the AMIA.

There is only one ammonal factory in Argentina. It is situated in Rio Tercio, Cordoba Province, and it belongs to Military Industries.

Ammonium nitrate is one component of ammonal. It is an industrial fertilizer that costs less than \$2 per kg on the local market. It is not [as published] widely used as a fertilizer, and is mixed with an anti-explosive product.

The second component is fuel oil, which costs 26 cents a liter.

With a good cover, these components can be sent anywhere without declaring their final use. [sentence as published]

Detonators and batteries are frequently used in the mining industry and their value just a few hundred pesos.

Nitroglycerine has the most destructive power: its power value is 100. Ammonium gelignite has only a power value of 85, but it is more stable and costs 1.8 pesos per kg.

Ammonal manufactured with imported ammonium nitrate has a power value of 65. Imported fertilizers, which generally come from France in pellet form, must be registered with the Defense Ministry's Department of Weapons and Explosives, which has its offices in the Military Industries Building.

The demolition expert said: "No one would risk importing a product that has to be registered and would thus be discovered. I believe the terrorists used Argentine fertilizer with a power value of 55 and added a component used in the manufacture of the paint used on ships in order to increase its destructive power."

It has been learned that just 400 kg of ammonium gelignite was used to demolish the Warnes hostel [not further specified]. Several road construction companies manufacture the ammonal they use to flatten land or to take out such obstacles as large rocks.

The explosive was placed in several steel pipes with one end open and the other sealed. The device was then mounted in the van, and the AMIA and many lives were destroyed.

Hizballah Member Allegedly Behind AMIA Bombing

PY2907233994 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 28 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Adrian Ventura]

[Text] A Hizballah terrorist who allegedly has ongoing contacts with the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires and has already been identified—and not a member of the military, as the first reports indicated—masterminded and supervised the attack on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) headquarters.

Kamal Kharrazi, the Iranian representative to the United Nations, told his Argentine counterpart Emilio Cardenas that the former Iranian diplomat surnamed Motamar—whose testimony gave Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano the most important leads as to the identity of the perpetrators of the terrorist attack—allegedly has a substantial criminal record.

In a press communique that he released to the press on the evening of 27 July, Judge Galeano said that this deposition had been "very important."

The initiative to provide some sort of explanation to expectant citizens waiting to learn about the progress of the investigation was not made by Galeano, but rather by the Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE).

Given the fact that agents from foreign intelligence services were present at Motamar's interrogation, the government is seeking to control the dissemination of information and prevent any leaks from those sources.

Visibly annoyed, Judge Galeano made no comment, adding that the case was confidential. He stated that "he would not confirm some press reports" mentioning circumstances that are not reflected in the judicial proceedings.

Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solanas denied that Iranian Ambassador to Argentina Hadi Soleiman Pour had been forced to leave Spain when he was ambassador to that country. "He was never engaged in activities incompatible with his diplomatic status," he said.

Despite the efforts being made by Argentine justice to keep the probe secret, it was leaked that there might be three Iranian diplomats allegedly implicated in the attack, two of whom may have already left the country.

It was also learned that the bomb planted at the AMIA headquarters contained more than 200 kg of ammonal. Deputies believe that Foreign Minister Guido di Tella's briefing to the Chamber of Deputies left much to be desired.

Iran's Embassy Denies Envoy's Alleged 'Terrorist' Record

PY2907182094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2003 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jul (NA)—The Iranian Embassy asserted on 28 July that Iranian Ambassador to Argentina Hadi Suleiman Pour [name as received] "has always

been and is in favor of the struggle against terrorism and of seeking effective and multilateral solutions to control it at the world level."

The Iranian Embassy issued a communique this afternoon denying the alleged terrorist record of the ambassador and which was published by a Buenos Aires daily.

The communique denies Suleiman Pour's participation in radical Arab groups in Paris during the 70's and explains that "at that time, the ambassador was only 14 years old; he has never lived in France."

The communique released by the Iranian Embassy dismisses the information published today by a Buenos Aires newspaper accusing the Iranian diplomat of being "involved in Europe's terrorist network" and of "having been invited to leave the Iranian Embassy in Madrid" when he was ambassador to Spain.

It also contends that "with regard to his participation in the assault on the U.S. Embassy by some Iranian students called 'the Imam's line,' the ambassador never took part in such action and was not a member of any party or group."

Regarding the alleged expulsion of Suleiman Pour from Spain, the communique mentions Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga, who explained that the diplomat "left" his country's embassy "by decision of the Iranian Government itself," and "it has not been established that he had been engaged in activities that are incompatible with his diplomatic status."

It further states that "from the moment he started working for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Suleiman Pour worked at the Western Europe Department. And throughout his career, he has always been and is in favor of the fight against terrorism."

The communique ends by noting that the article published today refers to an investigation that goes back to 1988 made by journalist Ahmet Rafat, who "at that time sympathized with Iraq and on several occasions tried to damage the image of Iranian diplomats abroad."

Vehicle Repair Shop Owner Arrested in AMIA Case

PY2907153394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1423 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Jul (NA) — The Federal Police have arrested Ariel Miksner, the owner of the repair shop where the Renault Traffic van was prepared for use in the car bomb attack against the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association].

Miksner, a 28-year-old Argentine, was arrested early this morning. He is the owner of the repair shop located at 2300 Ituzaingo Street in Villa Maipu, San Martin Department.

Government Drafts Bill To Repress 'Terrorist' Crimes

PY2907211594 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network
in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta from the Olivos presidential residence—live]

[Text] The cabinet approved a bill on 29 July to repress terrorist activities. It was drafted by Justice Minister Rodolfo Barra. The bill is based on a similar law that is now in force in Spain. It creates the crime of terrorism by statute. The justice minister has said the bill foresees prison sentences of 10 to 25 years for those found guilty of terrorist crimes. The cabinet categorically rejects the death penalty in the bill.

[Begin recording] [Barra] Terrorist actions are not well defined in our penal code. Even though terrorism is not a new phenomenon, it has been overlooked by our lawmakers. The federal government thus created a bill to combat and punish—by appropriately defining in a criminal law—terrorist actions, illegal terrorist association, and public incitement to and defense of terrorism. We therefore intend to repress with harsh sentences—between 10 and 25 years in prison—those who use explosives or any other type of weapons or elements which can inflict damage on human beings or property, or who seek to alter public order, engage in retaliatory actions, or cause panic in sectors or stratas of society for racial, political, religious, or any other reasons. The bill provides for harsh sentences—as I have already mentioned—for illegal terrorist association or for public incitement to and defense of terrorism. We have based the bill on the Spanish law on terrorist repression, the Geneva Convention, and UN and OAS resolutions. We also intend to amend the procedural penal code to adapt and facilitate judges' task when investigating these crimes.

[Unidentified reporter] I believe it also applies to [words indistinct] terrorism?

[Barra] That measure is not strictly contemplated in this bill. After further study, we will surely implement it through another bill.

[Reporter] Could the law be enacted by decree?

[Barra] No. In legal matters, especially in criminal matters, the procedure to enact laws must be strictly respected.

[Barra] How will the law be applied in the case of foreigners, including those with diplomatic status?

[Barra] If foreigners commit crimes, all type of crimes, they are held liable. In the case of diplomats who enjoy diplomatic immunity, other measures will have to be studied. We will work to perfect the bill—which by the way is ready but must be completed perhaps with one of

these elements—with the Foreign Ministry with a view to cover some of the situations you have just mentioned. [end recording]

Minister Barra estimated that the bill will be submitted to Congress for discussion around next week.

Brazil

Ω SPACE, NUCLEAR, S&T NOTES

94P21019

[Editorial report] SINO-BRAZILIAN SATELLITE PROJECT FUNDED—The National Space Research Institute (INPE) will receive \$6.5 million for the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite (CBERS) program beginning the week of 20 June, the Sao Paulo daily GAZETA MERCANTIL reported in its 16 June issue. Another \$2.5 million will be allocated to completing the construction of the Weather Forecast and Research Center (CPTEC) building in Cachoeira Paulista, Sao Paulo. According to INPE Director General Marcio Nogueira Barbosa, the allocation will come from the government's privatization program, and the Bank of Brazil (BB) will advance the funds to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MST). The funds are to be released as part of an agreement signed in November 1993 between the MST, BB, and the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (FINEP). The agreement guaranteed the release of \$21 million for the CBERS and CPTEC projects and the Brazilian Complete Space Mission (MECB) satellites. By the end of 1994, INPE intends to negotiate the release of an additional \$10 million for its satellites projects.

GAZETA went on to quote Barbosa as saying that the \$6.5 million that INPE will receive for the Chinese-Brazilian satellite program will be used to bring new industries under contract for the CBERS project and maintain existing contracts. Barbosa added that seven supplier firms of electronic and mechanical equipment for the satellites are involved in the project: Automation and Control Systems Engineering (ESCA), Aeroelectronics, Brazilian Electronics (Elebra), Digicon, Mectron, Brazilian Aeronautics Company (Embraer), and Tecnasa.

The CBERS program involves the manufacture and launch of two high resolution remote sensing satellites to perform services such as surveying fires and deforestation, and meteorological forecasting. GAZETA continued. The total cost of the project is budgeted at \$150 million. 30 percent of which will be paid by the Brazilian Government and 70 percent by the Chinese. According to the agreement signed with China, the integration and testing of the second satellite in the series will be done in Brazil at the INPE Integration and Testing Laboratory in Sao Jose dos Campos. It has also been agreed that Brazil will have operational control over the satellite consistent with its share of participation in the program.

Barbosa further remarked that within 60 days, Brazil will present a proposal to China for marketing the data and images from the CBERS satellites. He said that the idea is to create a binational firm to exploit that information, and that the user market for those satellites worldwide is estimated at \$6 billion. He added: "Brazil and China should get at least \$1 billion."

AERONAUTICS MINISTRY TO OPEN ALCANTARA LAUNCH SITE TO BIDS—The Aeronautics Ministry will hold an international bid sometime during the remainder of 1994 to decide what domestic and foreign firms qualify to use the Alcantara Space Center (CLA). The CLA, reported the 17 June Rio de Janeiro daily O GLOBO, is considered the best site in the world from which to launch satellites into geostationary orbit due to its location two degrees from the equator. Major General Jose Marconi, deputy director of the Research and Development Department of the Aeronautics Ministry, indicated that the government plans to take advantage of CLA's site location to obtain funds to develop it. The base is located on a 62,000-hectares site in Alcantara, Maranhao State, and has only a 2,600-meter runway.

With a \$9.52 million budget for 1994, a tenth of the sum requested, the CLA will depend on funds from foreign firms associated with domestic firms to construct a runway capable of accommodating "vehicles of the spacebus type" and areas for large foreign or domestic launchers. Russian and American firms have already presented proposals that are being studied by the Aeronautics Ministry.

FIRM TO DO VIABILITY STUDY ON CUBAN NUCLEAR PLANT COMPLETION—On 25 May, Inepar Systems, a branch of the Inepar Industry and Constructions "holding" company in Curitiba, signed a protocol with the Governments of Cuba and Russia and the Italian public company Ansaldo, to do a viability study on completing Cuba's Juragua nuclear plant. GAZETA MERCANTIL reported on 20 June. Construction began on the plant located in Cienfuegos province in October 1983, and was suspended in 1992. Rodolfo Andriani, director general of Inepar Trading, Inc., opined that the plant must be reevaluated and adapted to new conditions, adding that construction methods and equipment must be "westernized" to complete it. He said that 75 percent of the plant's construction is completed.

The contract for the viability study was being prepared in Moscow and was expected to be signed in the beginning of July in Genoa, Italy. The study must be completed in six months; however, Ivan Sabatella, head of Inepar's Directorate of Business Development, was absolutely certain of the plant's viability. The Cuban Government's contacts with Inepar, according to Sabatella, began some years ago, and intensified in January 1994 after Inepar's potential opportunities in Cuba were examined. Sabatella remarked: "We are aware of the need to restore that country's economic activities. For them, nuclear energy is fundamental." He anticipated

that the Brazilian Foreign Affairs Ministry would not impede the transactions. "From Inepar's point of view," Sabatella said, "it is a private undertaking. Furthermore, the embargo against Cuba comes from the United States and not the United Nations."

According to Inepar Trading Director Andriani, the viability study seeks to make the plant technically acceptable to international organizations and attractive to investors. "It is a way of making it transparent to the western world," he said, and added that "the plant can be immediately subject to international verification and certification legislation regarding the generation of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."

The Juragua project, according to the Inepar directors, provides for a containment vessel for the reactor and other Western equipment. Andriani said: "Up until now, the technology, in both construction and equipment, has been Russian. The idea, in this new stage, is to conduct open bids and use what is best in the world, independent of the country of origin."

NEW COMMANDER FOR ARAMAR MAY BE NAMED—The Aramar Experimental Center (CEA), a Navy Ministry organization that develops the Brazilian nuclear program, may have a new commander as of August, the Sao Paulo daily O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO reported on 6 July. Admiral Othon Luis Pinheiro da Silva, one of the mentors of the nuclear program and president of the Coordinating Center for Special Projects (Copesp), may move to a compulsory reserve status upon completing his eighth year of Admiralty on 31 July. Immediately thereafter, it is probable that an active duty Navy officer will be selected for the position, O ESTADO speculated.

PLANNING MINISTER URGES CONTINUED ANGRA II CONSTRUCTION—In remarks made in Sao Paulo on 8 July, Mines and Energy Minister Alexis Stepanenko defended the conclusion of the construction of the Angra II nuclear power plant, a project which has been sharply criticized, particularly by environmental groups. The 11 July GAZETA MERCANTIL reported Stepanenko's argument that "Angra II's construction was approved by the National Congress" and that "the \$4.5 billion already invested in its construction cannot be ignored." He added that half of the \$1.5 billion necessary to conclude the project will come from German financing at favorable interest rates. The minister disputed the preliminary audit by the National Accounting Office (TCU), which indicated that nearly \$2.5 billion will be needed to complete the plant, pointing out that there was a discrepancy in the numbers provided by the government regarding investments.

Chile

Iranian Embassy Issues Communique Denying All Accusations

PY3007013894 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Chile has released a communique categorically rejecting all accusations

against its country. In the wake of the bomb attack in Buenos Aires, the Iranian Embassy in Santiago is one of the diplomatic missions to which the Carabineros have deployed special forces agents around the clock. Over the past few days this embassy has been isolated. Ambassador Hamid Reza Hosayni has left for Teheran, and it appears no one has taken charge of embassy affairs. Only denials are received through via telephone.

The Iranian Embassy has, however, issued a communique which begins in this manner: In the name of the Highest. The communique disqualifies the Iranian citizen Motamar. A few days ago Motamar, identifying himself as a former diplomat, accused an Iranian military officer of having organized the brutal attack on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires. Since then Israel and Argentina have accused Iran of this attack.

In the communique Iran denies that Motamar ever was a diplomat. It says he is an individual who has been arrested several times for fraud and forgery, and that he left Iran four months ago.

The communique also repudiates the criminal attack and any terrorist action as inhuman. It concludes by saying that the frenetic Israeli reactions are not based on any evidence.

Meanwhile, Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa has stated that relations with Iran are absolutely normal, as the accusations against Iran are so far mere speculation.

Colombia

Ministers-Designate Laud Helms Amendment Rejection

PA2907201794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Jul 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Going back to the controversial issue of our relations with the United States, President-elect Ernesto Samper's ministers-designate who recently visited the United States have welcomed the rejection of the Helms Amendment. However, they said that with or without the rejection of this amendment, Colombian would maintain its resolute struggle against drug trafficking and its defense of human rights.

Although aware of the significance of the new pat on the back from the U.S. Congress in connection with the drug struggle, the ministers-designate of defense and foreign relations have said they will not accept any foreign-imposed conditions.

[Begin recording] [Foreign Relations Minister-designate Rodrigo Pardo] The government of President-elect Samper, just like the government of President Gaviria,

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

will maintain serious and responsible policies on the issues of drug trafficking and human rights.

[Defense Minister-designate Jose Fernando Botero Zea] We cannot accept any kind of imposition, particularly from a foreign state. [end recording]

The ministers-designate said the report on Colombia the U.S. State Department will deliver in four months to the U.S. Congress concerning the struggle against drug trafficking and human rights will not threaten the country, because we have much to demonstrate, especially since the Samper administration will work hard in both of these areas.

Ambassador Views 'Crumbling' of Amendment

PA3007015394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Report by Daniel Rocha from the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Excerpts] The crumbling of the Helms Amendment, thanks to the joint efforts of representatives of the Hispanic Caucus, has opened a new phase in relations between the U.S. Government and Hispanic America. [passage omitted]

Certain points are still pending, such as investigations into the report on violations of human rights by the Colombian Armed Forces, the reduction of illegal drugs, as much as possible, and the interruption of drug operations.

It is important now for Colombian diplomats to maintain a direct dialogue with those U.S. Government officials who are involved, one way or another, in Colombia as a country.

[Begin Ambassador to Washington Gabriel Silva recording] What happened in the U.S. Congress yesterday is very important. It proves that there is deep affection for Colombia in the U.S. Congress, that the opposition, as expressed by Senator Helms, was scarce, individualist, and did not represent the feeling of the U.S. Congress, which has made amends with Colombians. This act should please us all. [end recording]

Sanin Urges Haitian Government To Resign

PA10108031394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0214 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 31 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Colombian Foreign Minister Neemi Sanin today urged the de facto Haitian Government to step down and allow the return of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide without the pressure of a military intervention.

During an interview with Radio Cadena Nacional (RNC) from Guayaquil, Ecuador, Sanin asked the coupist military to "reconsider and prevent bloodshed

by facilitating the return of President Aristide to the constitutional government in accordance with the people's decision."

"There is still time for diplomacy and negotiation, which are principles that Colombia has defended above an intervention and the use of force," she added, alluding to the UN Security Council resolution today authorizing a possible invasion of Haiti.

The foreign minister announced that she will meet on Monday with President Cesar Gaviria to examine the situation and establish the Colombian Government's official position on the UN decision.

"The Haitian de facto authorities must handle this situation responsibly and pave the way for democracy and the popularly elected government, thus avoiding an invasion," she insisted.

Sanin said Colombia has always supported negotiated and political agreements and added that "there is still time for democracy to be restored without bloodshed and an invasion."

Kidnapping Attempt Against Transportation Minister Fails

PA3107022794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Report by Jaime Garcia from the "AM/PM" newscast]

[Text] Jorge Bendeck Olivella, minister of transportation and public works, escaped injuring this afternoon during an alleged FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] attack. The minister was inaugurating important road projects in various municipalities in southern Guajira. The minister's caravan was attacked after it left Villanueva. A shoot-out between rebels and policemen ensued and a police corporal was injured.

[Begin Mayor Hermes Onate recording, identified by caption] The rebels fired from the bush. Thank God the minister was not injured in this attack, which we, the people of El Molino, Guajira Department, and Colombians, repudiate. [end recording]

Government Reveals Second Phase of FARC Offensive

PA3107235894 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Jul 94 p 14A

[Article by Clara Elvira Ospina]

[Text] The National Navy discovered a shipment of 24 rifles in San Andres on Sunday morning, the first of countless shipments of weapons and ammunition that the Colombian authorities know the guerrillas will try to bring into the country over the next seven months.

This is the second phase of a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] plan termed "Farewell to President Gaviria." At present, only the terrorist phase is

known. It has included the assassination of General Carlos Julio Gil, attacks on various municipalities, the mass murder of soldiers, and the installation of checkpoints along the country's main highways.

The country began to experience this new offensive two weeks ago and were told of the guerrillas' intentions by the government. It wasn't until now, however, that the second phase of the plan, even more macabre and reserved for the Ernesto Samper administration, was revealed.

According to confidential reports in the hands of top government officials for the past two months, the current FARC offensive will continue until 6 August as a demonstration of their dissatisfaction with the Gaviria administration. According to the authorities, FARC will reduce its activities considerably during the first six months of President Samper's administration.

The FARC guerrillas, however, will carry out sporadic attacks in the days prior to 30 October, when elections for mayors, governors, councilmen, deputies, and officials of local administrative boards will be held.

According to the authorities, the attacks will involve less indiscriminate terrorism and more individual intimidation of candidates and voters in their areas of interest.

To obtain votes or to prevent their enemies from winning the 30 October elections, the FARC guerrillas will exchange their terrorist tactics for quieter methods, which could include the brief kidnapping of candidates who are not to the FARC's liking.

Meanwhile, a group within FARC, which could be called "the political" sector, will be in charge of reviewing the proposals of President Samper and of his government team, especially the work done by the peace commissioner.

Most FARC members, however, will be involved in less altruistic tasks. According to information in government hands, the rebels will reorganize themselves militarily throughout the country.

The guerrillas have accumulated a huge sum of money, which they will use to purchase sophisticated weapons, ammunition, and explosives on the black market.

The weapons—rifles and short-range guns—will be purchased in Central America (El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama) and Venezuela.

This information in the hands of the government has placed the border authorities on a state of alert, especially in the areas of Putumayo and Narino, Arauca and Casanare, and the Uraba region in Antioquia and Choco, to prevent the transit of war materiel.

This, however, will not be the only guerrilla activity in the six months of "truce." The authorities also know that the guerrillas will take advantage of this time to take vacations and to reorganize themselves throughout

country. The strategy includes the promotion and training of new group and front chiefs and the reorganization of groups, which will be called fronts despite their small size.

The guerrillas' goal is to strengthen themselves for February and March, when the peace strategies of the new government will have already been established. If attempts to hold a dialogue with the government under the guerrillas' own terms fail, the authorities believe a new offensive could be initiated that could include large areas of the country and which will help the guerrillas measure their strengths and evaluate the efforts of the six preceding months.

But there is one problem with the FARC's plans: Their current structure, the lack of a clear objective, and the eight "big generals" could create dissension over the benefits of launching one more battle...

Government Creates New Urban Anti-Guerrilla Unit

PA3007202094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jul 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] To stop the guerrillas from moving further into the house, so to speak, as has been the case in recent days, a new, highly specialized armed group of the Bogota Police started operations today. With helicopters, tanks, and sophisticated weapons, the police units will be able to react in less than 10 minutes to any skirmishes launched by guerrilla groups against La Calera and Ciudad Bolivar.

[Begin National Police Commander General Octavio Vargas Silva recording] These units will be available 24 hours a day. They will operate not only in Santa Fe de Bogota, but will also give support to municipalities that are close to Cundinamarca Department. [end recording]

According to the police director, this urban anti-guerrilla group will not limit its actions to the country's capital city, but will also support authorities in other cities if they come under guerrilla attack.

Armed Group Emerges in Medellin, Vows To Fight Guerrillas

PA3107042994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jul 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock" Newscast]

[Text] A new armed group has appeared in Medellin and, like the Pepes [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar] group, has declared war on the guerrillas. They have reported that they will confront the armed rebel groups.

Guerrilla actions continue to plague the public infrastructure in Antioquia. The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] made several

bridges their military objectives for today. The Medellin-Bogota highway was again attacked by CNGSB members. A dynamite charge placed on the road near Samana was detonated and the highway was closed for 15 hours. The huge traffic jam that ensued created chaos in the area. At the same time, 4th Brigade (?Barbo) Battalion members secured the area.

An unidentified truck driver summed up the situation:

[Begin recording] All the roads are blocked. Last week I was coming from the coast and the roads were blocked for an entire day. This happens every day. [end recording]

These guerrilla activities, which coincide with similar attacks elsewhere in Antioquia and Caldas, are intended to leave the department without communication. Although the explosion caused considerable damage, the situation would have been worse if the charge had been detonated on the bridge over Samana River, only 1 km away.

Everything seems to indicate that the dynamite was intended for a military convoy rather than to block the highway.

Venezuela

Caldera, Cabinet Decide To Delay Referendum

PA3107145094 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 29 Jul 94
p 2

[Text] A referendum may be proposed at any time and under any circumstances as a legitimate democratic option to consult popular opinion. This is the way in which President Rafael Caldera Rodriguez yesterday defined a referendum to his ministers during a cabinet meeting held at Miraflores Palace.

During the meeting, it was stressed that at this moment it seems the suspension of constitutional guarantees is no longer needed, because laws to counteract the problems extant are about to be approved. Therefore, the executive branch is leaving the last word on this matter to the National Congress, while emphasizing that there is no conflict between the branches of the state, despite the existence of a slight discrepancy that will not require the intercession of the Supreme Court of Justice.

During the Council of Minister's meeting, President Caldera said the disagreement resulting from Congress' decision to reinstate the constitutional guarantees at a time when it was not justifiable prompted the referendum proposal.

President Caldera said that although a referendum is not contemplated in the Constitution, it is not prohibited either, and although it has no legal value, a referendum does have ethical and political value. Moreover, the fact

that Congress could take action within the next few days is not reason enough for the president to reject the idea of a referendum altogether.

During the cabinet meeting it was said that a referendum could be proposed in the future, whenever it becomes necessary to consult the opinion of the Venezuelan people.

In yesterday's meeting, other issues were analyzed. President Caldera believes the state of the nation is still critical, but he expressed confidence that the measures taken and the decision of many Venezuelans to support these measures will allow the country to move ahead.

There was a consensus among the ministers that President Caldera's proposal has the support of the people. Surveys and public opinion polls conducted by the current administration were discussed, and it was noted that in a number of cities more than 85 percent of the residents support the president's actions.

The ministers said the notion that President Caldera will back down or change his position on his proposals is absurd because of the support they have received. The idea is to wait for Congress to act quickly on the government's proposals, because if this does not happen, the referendum will continue to be a viable option. President Caldera believes there will be immediate popular acceptance of such a proposal.

The polls were highlighted because they confirmed the notion that the people accept a referendum as a means to confirm the validity of the suspension of constitutional guarantees—an action that was necessary because of a lack of legal instruments to successfully fight white collar crime, bank crimes, and speculation.

It is also understood that if the government obtains legislation to give it the means to wage this struggle through the laws it has proposed, it is evident that the suspension of guarantees will logically come to an end, because these were special measures taken in the face of special circumstances.

Regarding Radical Cause's decision to withdraw from Congress, the cabinet agreed that this decision was entirely the responsibility of this political party.

Cabinet Official Comments

PA2907165694 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno from Miraflores Palace; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] After examining the country's situation, the cabinet decided today not to hold a referendum on whether or not people agree with the suspension of constitutional guarantees. Here is Vicente Briceno with a report:

[Briceno] This decision was based on the congressional decision to promptly approve four draft bills presented

by the executive, including the bills on the financial emergency, foreign exchange regulations, reforms to the Consumer Protection Law, and the insurance and reinsurance measures. The approval of these bills will help overcome the dispute between the executive and Congress—a dispute that resulted from the suspension of constitutional guarantees. These guarantees will be restored once the bills are approved.

Regarding this issue, people have said that after the government killed the tiger, it became afraid of its hide. Disagreements abounded in the plenum of the executive cabinet following the refusal of Minister Ramon Escobar Salom—a strong referendum supporter—to announce the decision canceling the referendum. Guillermo Alvarez Bajares, director of the Central Information Office [OCI], had to make the announcement.

[Begin Alvarez recording] Several party leaders have expressed their willingness to approve these bills promptly. Since the referendum was proposed—as the president announced—on the decree suspending guarantees, once these bills are approved and constitutional guarantees restored, obviously it will not be necessary to hold a referendum. This, however, should not be viewed as categorically opposing the idea of holding a referendum later if it is deemed appropriate in other situations, as in the case of in-depth measures. [end recording]

[Briceno] The tail end of the controversy surrounding the referendum began to be felt when Radical Cause announced its withdrawal from Congress—an event Guillermo Alvarez chose to ignore. The OCI director, however, did warn that if Radical Cause withdraws from Congress, it would be wholly responsible for its actions.

When commenting on complaints made by the Venezuelan press on difficulties of buying dollars for importing materials for newspapers, Alvarez indicated that the prompt delivery of foreign currency has been delayed by the many requirements involved in the process. To this effect, he emphasized that instructions have been given to simplify the procedures.

Finance Minister Discusses Economic Measures

PA3007130294 Caracas Venevision Television Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Interview with Venezuelan Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez by program host Carlos Fernandez at the Venevision Television studios in Caracas; from the "24 Hours" program—live]

[Text] [Fernandez] We are beginning our program with Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez. We want to talk to him about many topics. One of the reasons he is visiting the Venevision studios is to promote and discuss the law on wholesale and luxury item taxes. Before getting into this issue, however, I would like to broach a few other topics regarding the country's finances—for example, the situation that has arisen regarding foreign

exchange, as well as controls, and, especially, Mr. Minister, the international outlook. How are we being viewed from abroad? Has there been a significant revival of confidence in Venezuela within the international community? Welcome, Dr. Julio Sosa Rodriguez.

[Sosa] Thank you, Carlos. I am pleased to be with you this morning. With your consent, we can start with the last point you mentioned—the level of confidence in the country's economy within the international community.

Evidently, some have described the economic situation as [words indistinct] and I do not blame them. The foreign exchange control system has traditionally...[pauses] Although a postwar control system exists in Europe, they are against such controls, and this prompts a negative reaction.

Evidently, they also have become aware that [words indistinct] Venezuelan oil price at the beginning of the year [word indistinct] was \$10.50 instead of the estimated \$15. All of these factors prompt negative assessments. However, [words indistinct] perceive a different situation. I know that several people, primarily investors, have come to talk to me, and a few have already started to invest. I also have noticed that there is a great deal of interest in [words indistinct] by Congress. This is a model arrangement for associations between PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum] subsidiaries and foreign multinational corporations that have markets, resources, and technology. Therefore, I have gathered that Venezuela has lost, at least temporarily, the interest of investors in the area of speculation. The situation is [words indistinct] and the market. I would say that midterm investments are coming in. There is, however, something that worries me. The new investments seem to be [word indistinct] good.

I believe there is great interest in the petroleum sector. There is a great deal of interest in plants. [words indistinct] several people who are going to invest \$50 million to process [words indistinct]. I could give you several similar examples. I would like to mention that many Venezuelan firms are being sold, totally or partially, to foreign corporations. In turn, I am somewhat concerned, because it seems to me that Venezuelans are more impressed by news that appears in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL than foreigners are.

[Fernandez] I was just getting to that. Aside from the assessments made abroad by prestigious international media sources, the reactions in our country have been plentiful. When we talk to spokesmen for the financial sector, well, they express a good deal of doubt. When we talk to representatives of the commercial sector, they give us a very pessimistic view. When we talk to the industrial sector people, they say the problem of dollars and the foreign exchange decision is making production-related activities difficult. Others say shortages are close at hand. We are hearing so many negative comments that we must say: Heck, what is happening here? Is it true that we are going off a cliff?

[Sosa] Well, let me tell you something. You have not been to the interior of the country.

[Fernandez] No.

[Sosa] [Words indistinct] the country. I truly find that this type of pessimism exists primarily in Caracas. The situation of pessimism is not so pronounced in the interior. I would say the productive sector is not that worried about obtaining foreign exchange for its raw materials or to export its products. Of course, there are problems, because new procedures are always difficult to implement at the beginning. However, I believe that with the Foreign Exchange Administration Council's good intentions and cooperation from the banks—and I believe they must provide true and effective cooperation—this problem can be resolved in the short term.

Now, there is a problem [words indistinct] of high interest rates negatively affecting our agricultural and industrial production. There is a program to help the agricultural sector and small and medium industries, but interest rates will really only [words indistinct] when people perceive that inflation is under control. How will we be able to control inflation? When people perceive that great efforts are being made to close the fiscal gap. We will control inflation when people are certain that this is being done. Tough people, the people at the IMF, for example, must be convinced that we are effectively [words indistinct] to cover the fiscal gap. The perception that inflation is here to stay will gradually disappear when that happens.

[Fernandez] There is another specific concern. It is seen not only abroad but in our country as well. The business [words indistinct], through the media, says there is no confidence in Venezuela and that foreign investment will not come to the country. They, many of them, have their capital abroad but will not bring it to the country because they don't want to risk [words indistinct]

[Sosa] Let me tell you that this attitude must be attacked at the level of our young people in Venezuela. Colombia has gone through some very dire periods, and I have never seen a Colombian say there is no trust in Colombia. Unfortunately, I believe....

[Fernandez interrupting] It seems that they are betting on our failure.

[Sosa] I think this is a result of the apathy in which we have been living for the past 20 or more years. Apathy produces this sort of mentality, not a [word indistinct] mentality and of commitment to the country. We have to fight this attitude starting with the education of our young people. I repeat: I have never seen a Colombian criticize his country while he is abroad. Unfortunately, Venezuelans do not act in a similar manner.

We do have a problem, and it is a serious problem that [words indistinct] solve. The problem is the banking crisis. I don't think anyone foresaw the magnitude of this

crisis. The World Bank vice president said [words indistinct]. The information submitted by the Bank Superintendency did not really allow us to foresee this crisis. In the case of frauds, for example, the Bank Superintendency indicated that several of the big banks [words indistinct] had losses of 6 billion [currency not specified], but their losses really amounted to over 250 billion. We did not have the correct information to make accurate assessments. The Central Bank began to assist those banks because it thought they had a liquidity problem, but never did it anticipate a solvency problem of such magnitude.

[Fernandez, interrupting] The Banco Latino lesson had been so recent that perhaps the Venezuelan Government [words indistinct]. Some people have said that the government was very naive in handling the crisis because it blindly believed the proposal or the numbers presented by the trustees, excuse me, the administrators.

[Sosa] Definitely. [Words indistinct] change all the administrative council, but that is not the case. The truth is that we were caught off guard. What you are saying is true. We wanted to make sure that cases like Banco Latino did not happen again. The result, however, has been an excess of liquidity. Unfortunately, part of this excess liquidity was used to purchase foreign exchange, and another problem arose: a decrease in our international reserves. Thank God we caught it in time. We will talk about this and the need for temporary controls later on.

The situation has also prompted an inflation problem. By the way, I spoke with [words indistinct] and told him that one of our problems was how to reduce the excessive liquidity in the system. We will continue to have inflation until we manage to reduce our excess liquidity. Currently, prices have not [word indistinct] because there is control. I hope, however, that this will be a temporary control because it will be very negative for the national economy on a medium- and long-term basis.

[Fernandez] Speaking of temporary measures, tell me something very important, Mr. Minister. Many people are very uncertain and want to know—of course we cannot predict such things—how long this temporary situation will last. Some predict that if things do not work out as planned, the government will continue the control policies up to 1998. This issue sparked a great controversy at the FEDECAMARAS [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] assembly when they showed the famous payroll [planilla] projecting as far as 1998. It triggered a great outrage.

[Sosa] Well, they have made the most of those small mistakes [chuckles]. The truth is that I hope the measures will be temporary and, of course, that we will be able to renew trust at the [word indistinct] because we are fighting our fiscal deficit and trying to reduce our excess liquidity. People will realize that the controls will no longer be needed. Now, I believe many European

countries, in Spain, for example, where they got out of a control [words indistinct]. I hope the time will come when we no longer need controls to conduct the country's regular transactions such as servicing the debt, the private debt, sending necessary funds to our people abroad, the supplies required for our industry, and that we [words indistinct].

[Fernandez] Inasmuch as the basic elements of the country's economic structure are being committed based on an appeal by the national government, many people feel that [words indistinct] of the uncertainty that I mentioned earlier. Not everyone thinks the (?program) being implemented by the government will have positive results for confronting the country's crisis.

[Sosa] I respect everyone's opinion and take them into consideration. However, I sincerely believe that the [words indistinct] government, for example, of the fiscal measures that were taken by means of the special powers law. This was possible thanks to the cooperation of the legislative branch. [Words indistinct] that there was not enough pressure. This is probably due to the [words indistinct] at that time by the legislative branch to realize that the situation of [words indistinct] that this would be a temporary situation. It encouraged us with the idea that oil prices would rise....

[Fernandez, interrupting] Some people are still getting excited about the new price for a barrel of oil. There is no sense, either, in being so optimistic.

[Sosa] I insist that if we made a [words indistinct] of the petroleum law would be to pay part of the [word indistinct]....

[Fernandez, interrupting] We also have international commitments....

[Sosa, interrupting] If we were not burdened with the weight of the foreign debt, which is consuming 30 percent of our budget, Venezuela would be in an extremely good position. But this is the reality and we must face it. If oil prices go up, the first thing we must do is to pay that debt. That is what should have happened in (?1979) when we had the [words indistinct]

[Fernandez] So there cannot be a (?reorganization) even with a rise in the price of oil? In other words, there can be no change in the government's orientation or strategy, and the government will proceed as planned?

[Sosa] Of course we must realize that we must be able to finance [words indistinct] that taxes will be progressive and not regressive so they will be paid by those who have more, not by those who have less. We must get used to the idea that we have to finance our government, utilize resources from oil—as I say—to pay the foreign debt now and to pay for development plans, if this should be the case. We cannot fall back into the habit of the state developing the [words indistinct]. We must motivate....

[Fernandez, interrupting] How do you, as a minister, and the other members of President Caldera's economic team feel when you are constantly accused of not having a clear strategy, of not having an economic policy? Then, as a result of the decisions made after (?27 June), people say: Yes, now Caldera has a clear policy; the policy of controls, closing the market, and all those things. You should remember perfectly well that....

[Sosa, interrupting] Nothing is further from the truth. The policy as of (?27 June) is an emergency policy. It was necessary to resort to this for well-known reasons. Now there is criticism. I believe that constructive criticism is good. The problem I see with most criticism is that an analysis is made, and when this is used, it will help in a strategy that is different from the one we are using. [sentence as heard] What is our strategy? We try to achieve fiscal balance, to cut expenses, to become a more efficient state. Look, I will tell you something. For four months there was no water three days a week at the ministry where I work.

[Fernandez, interrupting] [Words indistinct] that have no water.

[Sosa] But there you have a problem of a broken pipeline. This business of not having water three days a week was not due to a lack of water but a lack of organization, a lack of systematization. There are some things that must be [words indistinct].

[Fernandez] There is talk about an initial 10 percent rate and a 12.5 percent rate in 1995.

[Sosa] The 1995 budget [words indistinct].

[Fernandez] Why is the rate being increased now?

[Sosa] Because [words indistinct] the inflation, so tax revenues must be higher.

[Fernandez] A listener has the following question: I have a daughter overseas. I want to send her money through a bank, but it so happens that financial institutions are no longer meeting such requests. What can I do?

[Sosa] If her daughter is going to school, this is one of the circumstances that are covered, and she should have no problem. What she has to do is to demonstrate her daughter's student status by showing her monthly fee and registration fee receipts. A person who works abroad and lives abroad, and if a problem emerges and limitations develop, then [words indistinct] analogous.

[Fernandez] A question from Puerto La Cruz....

[Sosa, interrupting] If a foreigner wants to see his family [words indistinct].

[Fernandez] Is the government willing to bring interest rates down? Only bankers are benefiting from the current rate, according to one television viewer.

[Sosa] In the end, it is not the bankers who will benefit. Bankers are intermediaries. I do believe, however, that

banks, because of some inefficiencies, have imbalances between assets and liabilities, but this is not the only cause of high interest rates. This is an administrative situation we have in the country. I have the same concern the person asking this question has: We have to make every effort to bring interest rates down, but this has to happen along with a drop in inflation rates.

[Fernandez] Of course, this is basic. Someone has a suggestion: Why, instead of charging taxes on luxury vehicles, not implement a tax on vehicles? This tax that would be payable every three months—a tax on cars that remain a long time in Venezuela.

[Sosa] This proposal sounds a bit too complex to be practical. I do believe that [words indistinct] taxes based on costs. In Europe, for example, a person who likes to ride in a Cadillac usually pays higher taxes than a person travelling in a Volkswagen. We do not have this here, but this is something we can study. [laughs]

[Fernandez] Of course. Here is question from Falcon: When will the new taxes go into effect? On 1 August, Monday. From Caracas: What guarantee does a person who is traveling have that dollars acquired before the date the exchange controls were established will not have those dollars seized from him? This has to do with what you have already mentioned.

[Sosa] If such a situation arises, it would have to be denounced. I said that clearly there is no reason to do this. Such seizures would be arbitrary. If this person does not receive his dollars back, then we are talking about a crime.

[Fernandez] Of course. Thank you for being with us, Mr. Minister. There are other questions from our television viewers. They have to do with foreign enterprises leaving Venezuela; the problem of paying contractors involved in public works, the problem of Tachira State, where enterprises are being sold to foreign investors because they are broke; and the case of importers of raw materials increasing prices by as much as 50 percent since the price of the dollar was set at 170 bolivares. There is also a question from Vista Alegre about where to obtain applications for registering the debts of importers. Where can they be obtained?

[Sosa] At all banks.

[Fernandez] A caller from Andres Bello says that Banco Metropolitano is not releasing bank accounts. What is happening? The tax on bank debits is an aggressive policy that has hurt everybody, and this must come to an end. For the time being, it will last at least until 31 December.

[Sosa] This is the plan, and so far it has worked well. It did not create the problems that had been anticipated. You mentioned an interesting question—the one about an increase in raw materials. This means that either the exporting of manufactured products has increased or that domestic consumption has increased. Either way,

this means the economy is improving. If we are exporting more finished products, this means that our exports have improved. The issue is not the importing; the issue is that this is a positive sign.

[Fernandez] Thank you. You may keep these questions. Thank you, Dr. Julio Sosa Rodriguez.

Diplomatic Missions Unable To Exchange Currency

PA3107233794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2158 GMT
30 Jul 94

[Text] Caracas, 30 Jul (EFE)—The diplomatic and consular missions accredited in Venezuela are having problems covering their administrative expenses following the imposition of foreign exchange controls ordered by the administration of President Rafael Caldera on 27 June.

A Venezuelan Foreign Ministry spokesman told EFE that the 80 foreign delegations in the country had requested an urgent meeting with the government to solve their dollar exchange difficulties.

He indicated that the missions have not been able to pay their diplomatic and administrative personnel's regular wages for the past month because banks are not authorized to change foreign currency to bolivares.

Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister Roy Chaderton admitted that the banks have treated the diplomatic corps disrespectfully and added that this policy "is tough" because it hurts Venezuela's image abroad.

"By drowning the diplomatic missions, it is very possible that 80 negative reports on Venezuela will be forwarded from our country," he said.

The Venezuelan official reported that the difficulties will be resolved next week when the Caldera administration issues a resolution to allow the exchange of dollars for diplomatic and consular missions accredited in the country.

Minister Denies Clashes With Colombian Guerrillas

PA3107171794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister Rafael Montero Revette has denied that Colombian guerrillas have attacked the San Fernando de Tamapo border post or any other military installation in the area. The military chief said there have been no clashes between Colombian guerrillas and Venezuelan soldiers. He added that the border posts are well protected by Venezuelan soldiers stationed in the area and that our soldiers are guarding the country's interests.

The defense minister also reported that the arrest of two people in the area is designed to help determine responsibilities in the incident now under investigation [reference unknown].

On previous occasions, the Armed Forces have been alert to counter raids by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and Colombian Army of National Liberation guerrillas. The rebels, who use the Federal Amazon Territory as a safe haven, have been repelled in Arauca.

Tanker Rescues Cubans Attempting To Reach Miami

PA3007013494 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL In Spanish
28 Jul 94 p 2-28

[Report by Ebis Romero]

[Text] Maracaibo, 27 Jul—A group of 10 Cubans arrived in Venezuela along the eastern coast of Lake Maracaibo. They arrived on board a Panamanian-registered oil tanker that rescued them in the Gulf of Mexico after the motorboat on which they were riding capsized while attempting to reach Miami.

General German Valera Araque, chief of the National Guard 3d Regional Command, has confirmed the report, adding the group departed Cuba on 25 July and were rescued on 26 July by the Panamanian oil tanker Metro, which arrived at La Salina, a Lagoven dock located along the eastern coast of Lake Maracaibo.

The National Guard identified the Cubans as Rogelio Palmera; Pedro Abreu; Rigoberto Ferreira Barrera; Arsenio Leon; Ariel Alfonzo; Jorge Colon; Roberto Gracia; Julio Boza; Santos Barriga; and Juan Breijo.

A medical team examined the group to prevent the spread of any disease, but they were all found to be in good physical condition.

Gen. Valera has said the National Guard fulfilled its part, while the Foreign Ministry must decide what to do with these men.

Justice Minister Comments on Editorial

PA3107144694 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno from Miraflores Palace in Caracas; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Justice Minister Ruben Creixens has rejected charges made in a MIAMI HERALD editorial. The editorial accuses President Rafael Caldera Rodriguez of being a caudillo for having taken dictatorial measures in a democratic state, such as Venezuela, and it urges the OAS to intervene in light of the Venezuelan Government's actions.

The justice minister hinted that economic groups interested in damaging the Venezuelan Government's image

abroad are diverting attention from what is actually happening and could be behind this editorial.

On this particular issue, Creixens explained that the president's measures were taken within the context of the Constitution and the laws of the Republic as a means of dealing with a profound crisis, and this, in Creixens' opinion, cannot be considered the dismantling of the de jure state or a violation of human rights.

[Begin Creixens recording] The president of the Republic has the right to suspend constitutional guarantees during a Council of Ministers meeting when a crisis requires it, and nothing has been done in Venezuela that deviates from this path.

It could be that the special interests—in some cases, economic interests—of certain sectors are being affected, and they want to bend the truth. The truth is that a state of law exists in Venezuela—a state of law that is being strictly observed—and the president of the Republic remains subject to the Constitution and to the laws of the state. [end recording]

The justice minister urged the foreign media to respect the liberty and self-determination of nations throughout the world to enable them to act in accordance with their own constitutions and laws. Finally, he denounced interference of any international organization in national policy and the guidance given Venezuela by its rulers.

Suriname

Parties Reject Role in UN Force for Haiti

FL3007182594 Castries HTS Caribvisio: Television in English 1945 GMT 22 Jul 94

[From the "Caribbean Evening News" program]

[Text] The former Dutch colony of Suriname has become the latest country to open its doors to Haitian refugees, following a request from the U.S. Government. Surinamese soldiers and police will also participate in the UN peacekeeping force to be installed in Haiti after the illegal military regime steps down. Opposition members of the National Assembly say the government, without consulting the legislative body, made the decision to participate in the UN peacekeeping force. Marion Rheindwald reports:

[Rheindwald] The National Democratic Party and the Democratic Party do not agree with Suriname's participation in the peacekeeping force in Haiti. They claim that this is against the Surinamese and Haitian Constitutions. (Frank Playfair), chairman of the Democratic Party, criticized the U.S. policy to invade countries where human rights are violated. He says the U.S. is not invading China, where human rights are also violated. The minister of justice, Soeshiel Girjasing, says Suriname cannot be an onlooker to the killings in Haiti. According to him, the Surinamese Constitution permits the country to take part in a peacekeeping force. That

Haitians risk their lives fleeing the island is hardly enough for new front coalition member Arnold (Kroesenant) to support the government's decision. Suriname's obligation is also to Haitian workers, who maintain the country's banana industry. This is the second time that Suriname will take up Haitian refugees. In

1992, 60 Haitians were admitted. Most of them work at a state banana company, while some have left the country. U.S. and Surinamese officials are now making preparations for the arrival of 2,000 Haitians who will remain in camps, probably near the Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be

provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735, or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.